mail: news@arubatoday.com Website: www.arubatoday.com Saturday, January 30, 2010



WORLD NEWS

BLASIR'S LEACY



A demonstrator holds a placard, referring to former Prime Minister Tony Blair, outside the venue of the Iraq Inquiry in London, on the day Blair spoke, Friday, Jan. 29, 2010.

Read more on Page A6

SPORTS NEWS

OUITTING TIME



Arizona Cardinals quarterback Kurt Warner announces his retirement from football Friday, Jan. 29, 2010 at the Cardinals' training facility in Tempe, Ariz.

Read more on Page A12



From left, President Barack Obama, House Minority Leader John Boehner of Ohio, House Minority Whip Eric Cantor of Va., and Rep. Mike Pence, R-Ind., bow their heads during the invocation, prior to the president addressing Republican lawmakers at the GOP House Issues Conference in Baltimore, Friday, Jan. 29, 2010.

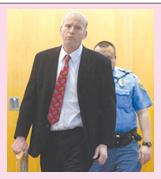
Associated Press

Obama, Republicans swap barbs, ideas in meeting

CHARLES BABINGTON
STEPHEN OHLEMACHER
Associated Press Writers
BALTIMORE (AP) — In a remarkably sharp
face-to-face confrontation, President Barack
Obama chastised Republican lawmakers

Friday for opposing him on taxes, health care and the economic stimulus, while they accused him in turn of brushing off their ideas and driving up the national debt.

Continued on next page



Scott Roeder walk off the stand after testifying in his own defense at his murder trial on Thursday, Jan. 28, 2010 in Wichita, Kan. Associated Press

Abortion activist convicted in doctor's death

MARIA SUDEKUM FISHER

Associated Press Writer WICHITA, Kansas (AP) — A jury took just 37 minutes Friday to convict an anti-abortion activist of murder for putting a gun to the head of a prominent abortion provider and pulling the trigger in the foyer of a church.

Continued on page 5

Haitians tire of waiting, start own rebuilding

PAISLEY DODDS
Associated Press Writer
PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti
(AP) — Defying pleas to wait
for Haiti's reconstruction,
families lugged heavy
bundles of wood and tin up
steep hillsides Friday to do
the unthinkable: build new
homes on top of old ones
devastated in the earthquake.

The defiance reflects growing anger and frustration among Haitians who complain that their leaders — and any rebuilding plans — are absent more than two weeks after the Jan. 12 earthquake damaged or destroyed thousands of homes in the capital.

Continued on page 8



Louis Saint-Jane rebuilds his home that collapsed in the Jan. 12 earthquake in the Canape Vert neighborhood of Port-au-Prince, Friday, Jan. 29, 2010. Defying pleas to wait for Haiti's reconstruction, families are building new homes on top of old ones devastated in the earthquake.

Associated Press







Saturday, January 30, 2010 UP FRONT





Obama Republicans

Continued from front page

The president and Republican House members took turns questioning and sometimes lecturing each other for more than hour at a Republican gathering in Baltimore. The Republicans agreed to let TV cameras inside, resulting in an extended, point-bypoint interchange that was almost unprecedented in U.S. politics, except perhaps during presidential debates.

With voters angry about partisanship and legislative logjams, both sides were eager to demonstrate they were ready to cooperate, resulting in the Republican invitation and Obama's acceptance. After polite introductions, however, Friday's exchange showed that Obama and the Republicans remain far apart on key issues, and neither side could resist the chance to challenge and even scold the other

Obama said Republican lawmakers have attacked his health care overhaul so fiercely, "you'd think that this thing was some Bolshevik plot." His proposals are mainstream, widely supported ideas, he said, and they deserve some Republican

votes in Congress.

"I am not an ideologue," the president declared.

But Rep. Tom Price pointedly asked Obama: "What should we tell our constituents who know that Republicans have offered positive solutions" for health care, "and yet continue to hear out of the administration that we've offered nothing?"

Obama showed little sympathy, disputing Price's claim that a Republican plan would insure nearly all Americans without raising taxes.

"That's just not true," said Obama. He called such claims "boilerplate" meant to score political points.

At times it seemed more like Britain's "question time" — when lawmakers in the House of Commons trade barbs with the prime minister — than a meeting between a U.S. president and members of Congress.

Republican Conference Chairman Rep. Mike Pence defended Price on the health care proposals. He said a Republican agenda booklet given to Obama at the start of the session "is backed up by precisely the kind of detailed legislation that Speaker (Nancy) Pelosi and your administration have been busy ignoring for 12 months."

Obama shot back that he had read the Republican proposals and that they promise solutions that can't be realized.

In another barbed exchange, the president said some Republican lawmakers in the audience had attended ribboncutting ceremonies for projects in their districts funded by the 2009 stimulus package that they voted against.

Pence said Obama was trying to defend "a so-called stimulus that was a piecemeal list of projects and boutique tax cuts."

Obama replied, "When you say they were boutique tax cuts, Mike, 95 percent of working Americans got tax cuts."

"This notion that this was a radical package is just not true," he said.

Republicans feeling are energized after winning a Democratic Senate seat in Massachusetts, and Obama is trying to refocus his stalled agenda more on jobs than health care. With Obama at a podium facing a hotel conference room full of Republicans, both sides jumped to the debate.

"It was the kind of discussion that we frankly need to have more of," said House Republican Whip Eric Cantor. "I'm having fun, this is great," Obama said when Pence

asked if he had time for more questions.

"So are we," said Pence.

Some Republicans prefaced their questions with lengthy recitations of conservative talking points. The president sometimes listened impassively but sometimes broke in.

Obama, a former law school professor, launched into lectures of his own at times. He warned lawmakers from both parties against demonizing political opponent, incomprehensible if the two sides ever agree on anything.

"We've got to be careful about what we say about each other sometimes, because it boxes us in in ways that makes it difficult for us to work together because our constituents start believing us," Obama said. "So just a tone of civility instead of slash-and-burn would be helpful."

In his opening remarks, Obama criticized what he said was a Washington culture driven by opinion polls and nonstop political campaigns.

"I don't believe that the American people want us to focus on our job security, they want us to focus on their job security," he said.

The president acknowledged that Republicans have joined because voters might find it Democrats in some efforts, such as sending more U.S. troops to Afghanistan. But he said he was disappointed and perplexed by virtually unanimous Republican opposition to other programs, such as the economic stimulus



Heavy snowfall buries southern Plains, heads east

By ERIK SCHELZIG Associated Press Writer NASHVILLE Tenn

Southeastern states were bracing Friday for overnight snow and icy roads from a storm that has toppled Midwestern power lines, closed major highways, buried parts of the southern Plains in heavy ice and snow and left tens of thousands of people in the dark

As snow and sleet fell Friday in several Southeastern states, forecasters said some parts of the region could see up to a foot of accumulation

The heaviest snow was expected in Arkansas near the Missouri state line, northern Tennessee near the Kentucky and Virginia borders and western North Carolina, according to the National Weather Service.

Mark Rose, a forecaster with the weather service's Nashville office, called it "a major winter storm for this part of the country — heck, for any part of it."

In North Carolina, Interstate 26 near Asheville and Interstate 40 near Black Mountain were shut down Friday night after snow and icy roads caused multiple wrecks. Troopers said they expected the highways to remain closed until early Saturday.

The storm left 13 inches of snow in the northern Texas Panhandle, where nearly all of Interstate 40 from the Texas-Oklahoma line to New Mexico was closed for part of the day

More than 164,000 homes and businesses in Oklahoma were without power Friday evening, officials said. The outages were caused by a massive storm that left up to a half-inch of ice on trees and power lines.

Gov. Brad Henry requested a federal disaster declaration for all 77 Oklahoma counties.

"In some places, as far you can see there are hundreds of utility poles on the ground," said Andrea Chancellor, spokeswoman for Public Service Co. of Oklahoma. She said it could be five days before electricity is restored to all customers.

The storm has been blamed for the death of a 70-year-old Oklahoma woman in a propane explosion.

The woman and her husband had apparently been using propane heaters to warm their house in Ada after the storm disrupted their electric service, Assistant Fire Chief Robby Johnson said. The woman, who was not identified, died and her husband was injured when a propane tank exploded Friday morning.

Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen declared a state of emergency and state workers were sent home around lunch ahead of the worsening weather. Many businesses followed suit.

States of emergency were also declared in Arkansas and parts of Virginia and schools closed early in northern Alabama.

In Western Kentucky, shoppers at Murray Home & Auto store snatched up every available sled in anticipation of a heavy snow, said store manager Chris Burgess. Others grabbed shovels, kerosene heaters and chain saws, mindful of another winter storm a year ago that caused widespread power outages in the region.

"They're trying to be prepared this time," Burgess said.

The Nashville area saw up to 3 inches of snow by late afternoon, and I-40 traffic crawled toward Nashville International Airport for miles because of an accident. Snowfall was subsiding late Friday afternoon in Memphis after an estimated 3 inches had fallen. Most flights at Memphis International Airport were canceled, and Graceland stopped giving tours of the Elvis Presley home at midmorning.

officials Memphis worried because temperatures were forecast to remain below freezing overnight, posing a threat of icy highways and falling tree limbs. General contractor Tom Baldwin, 59, said he cut loose his crew at a downtown Nashville building at noon to give them time to get home safely.

"I want to tell people to have some common sense out there," he said. "Only because you have big four-wheel-drive doesn't make you stop any quicker."

The steady snowfall didn't keep Jason Martin from delivering beer to Lonnie's Western Room in Nashville's Printer's Alley.

"When it snows, everyone goes out and buys milk and eggs — and beer," joked Martin, 37. "We're like the Pony Express."

The Texas Department of Transportation closed I-40 east and west of Amarillo on Friday but later reopened it. Downed power lines and icy, dangerous road conditions also temporarily closed a 50-mile stretch of I-44 southwest of Oklahoma City and parts of I-40 in far western Oklahoma and eastern New Mexico on Thursday.

The storm was good for business at the Days Inn and Suites in Guymon, Okla., where stranded travelers waited for road crews to clear U.S. Highway 54 of ice and snow, employee Rocky Bhagavan said. Sixteen of the hotel's 35 rooms were occupied at the motel in the Oklahoma Panhandle, he said — twice as many as usual.

"Most of the travelers decided to leave this morning. As soon as they got to the Texas border they had to come back," Bhagavan said.

Heide Brandes, spokeswoman for the Salvation Army in Oklahoma City, said the organization's men's shelter has been full since the slow-moving storm moved into the area Thursday. She said some of the 90 men in the shelter are homeless and sought relief when temperatures dropped to the mid-20s.

Flights were canceled Friday



A Metro salt truck heads up 12th Avenue South in the Gulch area as snow continued to fall in Nashville Friday, Jan. 29, 2010. **Associated Press**

City and Little Rock, Ark.

Arkansas State Police warned people who were driving to work

morning at airports in Oklahoma on Friday to be prepared to be stranded. Spokesman Bill Sadler encouraged motorists to bring blankets, water and snacks and to make plans for an overnight stay.



4rubu TODA

Republican **Party adopts** platform test

HERBERT A. SAMPLE HONOLULU (AP)

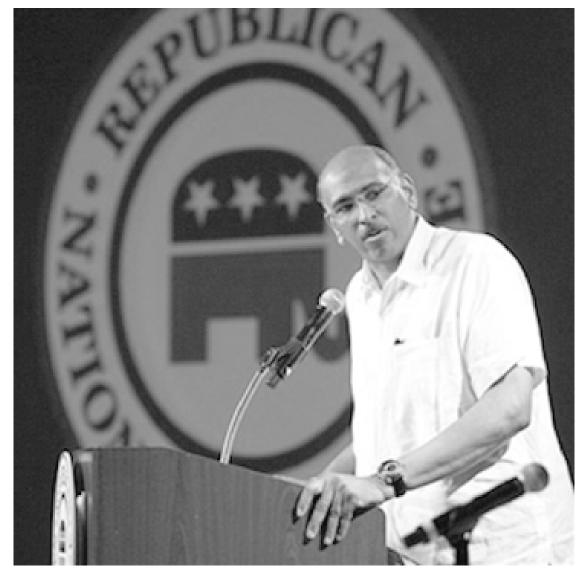
Republican National Committee, pressed to find a way to more clearly distinguish itself from Democrats, on Friday adopted a rule that requires Republican candidates to support the party's platform to obtain financial support.

The resolution, enacted by voice vote with no opposition at the party's winter meeting here, is an alternative to a more stringent proposal that would

have required Republican candidates to support 10 policy positions if they wanted party

That proposal, sponsored by Indiana Republican National Committee member James Bopp and backed by the RNC's more conservative members, was strongly opposed by party Chairman Michael Steele and a group of state party chairs.

The alternative, offered by RNC member Bill Crocker of Texas, does not contain



Michael Steele, head of the Republican National Committee, opens up the general assembly session of National Republican Committee's winter meetings being held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village in Honolulu Friday, Jan. 29, 2010. GOP members from all over the country are attending the strategy session to better position the party for the mid-term elections in November. **Associated Press**









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a specific litmus test and thus grants party officials more flexibility in how to vet Republican candidates seeking party support.

It urges leaders of local, state and national Republican parties to "carefully screen" the voting record and positions of Republican candidates that want party backing, and determine whether they "wholeheartedly support the core principles and positions" of the party as laid out in its platform.

The platform is adopted every four years at the party's presidential nomination convention.

The new rule will not prevent support for moderate Republican candidates but will bar funding for those judged to be too far to the left, Crocker said.

Crocker urged the party to "present candidates who will be attractive" to the public, including those upset with President Barak Obama's spending policies.

REGIONAL A5 Saturday, January 30, 2010

Abortion Doctor

Continued from front page

Attorneys for Scott Roeder had hoped to argue for a lesser conviction of voluntary manslaughter, based on the defendant's belief that the killing of Dr. George Tiller on May 31 was justified to save the lives of unborn children. But the judge threw out that defense a day earlier, leaving the jurors to choose between a murder conviction or acquittal.

Roeder, 51, of Kansas City, Missouri, admitted his actions on the witness stand. He faces a mandatory sentence of life in prison.

Defense attorney Mark Rudy described his case as "helpless and hopeless."

"I've never seen anyone lay himself out as much as Mr. Roeder did," Rudy said after the verdict, referring to his client's confessions.

Prosecutors carefully sidestepped the abortion debate as they laid out a case painting Roeder as a cold and careful killer who methodically planned his attack on Tiller, one of the only doctors in the U.S. to offer late-term abortions.

But both sides of the abortion debate lined up to respond to the verdict.

Abortion-rights advocates said the decision would send a message to the militant fringe of the anti-abortion movement.

Vicki Saporta, president of the National Abortion Federation, said she hoped the verdict would be a "deterrent to those that that are considering following in Roeder's footsteps."

"While the verdict won't bring back Dr. Tiller, it was very important justice was done today for the safety and security of other abortion providers across the country and women's ability to access abortion care," Saporta said.

Troy Newman, president of Wichita-based Operation Rescue, which organized protests against Tiller's clinic, said "pro-life was not on trial. An insane man doing an insane thing was on trial."

He said Roeder "could have saved us about three weeks of taxpayers' time and the city's agony if he would have just confessed to it up front."

Roeder could be considered for parole after 25 years. But prosecutor Nola Foulston said she would seek to ensure that he serve at least 50 years before being eligible for parole. Sentencing was set for March 9. In the courtroom, Tiller's family held hands and fought tears as the verdicts were read. Tiller's widow, Jeanne, later released a statement saying that the jury had "reached a just verdict."

The family said it wanted Tiller to be "remembered for his legacy of service to women, the help he provided for those who needed it and the love and happiness he provided us as a husband, father and grandfather."

In a November jailhouse interview with The Associated Press, Roeder admitted shooting Tiller in the foyer of the Wichita church where the doctor was serving as an usher. On the witness stand, he testified he felt that Tiller placed the lives of unborn children in "immediate danger."

During closing arguments Friday, Rudy urged the jury to reject the murder charge. "No one," he said, "should be convicted based on his convictions."

Rudy mentioned leaders who stood up for their beliefs, including slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. They were "celebrated individuals (who) stood up and made the world a better place."

"They leave their marks based on their words and deeds," Rudy said.

King, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, was an outspoken advocate of non-violent civil disobedience.

But prosecutor Kim Parker said Roeder was "simply guilty of the crime he has been charged with."

Prosecutor Ann Swegle told jurors to use their "common sense" and find Roeder guilty based not only on the state's case but also on Roeder's own testimony in which he described how he killed Tiller in a "planned assassination."

"There could be no other verdict in this case," she said.

Wearing a dark suit with a red tie, Roeder sat expressionless as the verdict was read. He moved his head toward the judge and to the jury as each juror confirmed the decision.

Tiller's Wichita clinic was the focus of many protests and had been under investigation by a former state district attorney who accused the doctor of skirting Kansas' abortion laws. In 2009, Tiller was acquitted of misdemeanor charges of violating Kansas restrictions on late-term abortions

Tiller's Wichita clinic was the focus of many protests and had been under investigation by a former state district attorney who accused the doctor of skirting Kansas' abortion laws. In 2009, Tiller was acquitted of misdemeanor charges of violating Kansas restrictions requiring a second opinion from a physician who is not affiliated to the one performing a late-term abortion.

Kansas law says abortions on viable fetuses after the 21st week of pregnancy are allowed only if a woman or girl's life is in danger, or if she faces a "substantial and irreversible impairment" of a major bodily function. Courts



have interpreted a major bodily function to include mental health.

Roeder, the sole defense witness, testified Thursday that he considered elaborate schemes to stop the doctor, including chopping off his hands, crashing a car into him or sneaking into his home to kill him.

But in the end, Roeder told jurors, the easiest way was to walk into Tiller's church, put a gun to the doctor's forehead and pull the trigger.

"Those children were in immediate danger if someone did not stop George Tiller," Roeder told jurors.

But after hearing Roeder testify, District Judge Warren Wilbert ruled that his lawyers failed to show that Tiller posed an imminent threat and the jury could not consider a manslaughter verdict.

Roeder was also convicted of aggravated assault for threatening two church ushers who tried to stop Roeder from fleeing.



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4ruba TODAY

Blair fights for his legacy, defends Iraq war

Associated Press Writer LONDON (AP) — He was right and he'd do it again.

That was Tony Blair's message Friday as he fought for his place in history against critics who contend it was folly to join the Americans in invading Iraq based on intelligence that was faulty and weapons of mass destruction that turned out not to exist.

The highly anticipated testimony before an official inquiry into Britain's role in the Iraq conflict provided both a reprise and a coda to the Blair years: The former prime minister showed his impressive rhetorical skills and high-minded principles, but left unanswered whether the war that defines his mixed legacy was instified

Many in the audience, including the relatives of soldiers and civilians killed in the war, were not impressed. Blair's claim to have no regrets drew an angry outburst. As he left, one man stood up and shouted "You are a liar!" A second added: "And a murderer."

The six-hour session Friday capped a wide-ranging inquiry since November has that heard extensive evidence from government lawyers and ministers who raised doubts about the legality and wisdom of the 2003 Iraq invasion, which was extremely unpopular in Britain.

The Iraq Inquiry panel plans to issue a report next year, but does not have a mandate to apportion blame or the power to bring any

criminal charges.

Many Britons blamed Blair for blindly following the Americans he was dubbed "Bush's poodle" and accused of making a backroom deal with the U.S. president

But while Blair showed signs of nerves during Friday's testimony - even nibbling on the wings of his spectacles at one point — he was unrepentant as he defended the decision to topple Saddam Hussein and warned that today's leaders face similar tough choices as they confront Iran over its nuclear program.

"The decision I took - and frankly would take again - was, if there was any possibility that he could develop weapons of mass destruction, we would stop him," Blair said. "It was my view then and that is my view now."

"This isn't about a lie, or a conspiracy, or a deceit, or a deception," Blair said. "It's a decision. And the decision I had to take was, given Saddam's history, given his use of chemical weapons, given the over 1 million people whose deaths he had caused, given 10 years of breaking U.N. resolutions, could we take the risk of this man reconstituting his weapons program?'

Blair said the Sept. 11 attacks changed everything, showing that religious fanatics were determined to inflict mass casualties. That made it too dangerous to leave Saddam in power, he said, because Saddam's Iraq — or other rogue states, like

North Korea or Iran — could form links to terror groups and attack the West.

Blair conceded there were no known ties between Saddam and the al-Qaida architects of the 9/11 atrocities, but said he feared such links could have developed if Saddam and his sons remained

Blair also insisted the U.S.-led invasion would have been called off had Saddam changed course and proved to U.N. inspectors that he had destroyed his arsenal.

That was met with a rebuff by one panel member, renowned historian Sir Lawrence Freedman, who pointed out in acid tones that it would have been difficult for Saddam to prove he had dismantled weapons he didn't have in the first place.

Blair did acknowledge postwar planning was flawed. He said his government did not anticipate the role al-Qaida and Iran would play in destabilizing Iraq after the fall of Saddam. The government had planned for a humanitarian crisis but did not foresee the sectarian violence that followed the invasion, he said.

The mood in the hearing room was strained. The audience included many with family killed in Iraq, and their presence added a sobering dose of reality to the legalistic jousting between Blair and the distinguished panel, which included knights and a baroness.

Rose Gentle, whose 19-year-old son Gordon was killed in Iraq in 2004, said she felt revulsion at Blair's presence.

"Actually, I felt sick," she said. "He seemed to be shaking as well, which I am pleased about — the eyes of all the families were on him."

This image from APTN shows Former Prime Minister Tony Blair Friday Jan. 29, 2010 testifying to Britain's Iraq Inquiry. Blair told Britain's Iraq Inquiry that Saddam Hussein didn't become a bigger threat after Sept. 11, but said his perception of the risk posed by terrorists acquiring weapons of mass destruction was dramatically changed by the attacks. Associated Press

It was more raucous outside the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Center, where some protesters shouted slogans including "Jail Tony" and "Blair lied — thousands died," while rows of police kept them away from the building.

It was an uncomfortable return to the limelight for the once popular Blair, who swept to power with a landslide victory in 1997 but saw his strong bond with the British public disintegrate after the Iraq invasion.

The bouncy step, easy smile and "Call me Tony" bonhomie of Blair's early years was gone, replaced by a stern, lawyerly figure who found himself interrupted and contradicted by his skeptical inquisitors.

He seemed defensive sometimes exasperated: is not a man accustomed to being interrupted, as happened frequently when he started to elaborate and digress. He showed signs of aging — a spreading bald spot, fine lines around his gray-blue eyes — but otherwise looked tanned and fit.

At times, Saddam seemed to hover over the proceedings hanged for his crimes in 2006 but still vilified by Blair as evil incarnate

The other absent figure whose presence was strongly felt was former President George W. Bush, who early on enlisted Blair's support for the Iraq invasion.

Malvern Drinking water throughout the lengthy hearing, Blair denied falsifying intelligence to boost the case for military action or making an early commitment to Bush to use force against Saddam more than a year before Britain's Parliament approved military action.

He also said he did not pressure his attorney general, Peter Goldsmith, to change his view and assert that the invasion would be legal under international law. Blair also insisted the existing U.N. resolution offered sufficient authority for the invasion.

Wickham-Jones, professor of political science at the University of Bristol, said Blair's testimony would not change the view among Britons that the war had been a disaster that was Blair's responsibility.

"Iraq is the millstone around his neck," Wickham-Jones said. "His legacy is Iraq, and the inquiry didn't do him any favors.'



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Peru evacuates last tourists from Machu Picchu

ANDREW WHALEN MARTIN MEJIA Associated Press Writers

MACHU PICCHU PUEBLO, Peru (AP) — Helicopters ferried out the last tourists stranded near Machu Picchu on Friday, leaving the country to contemplate a prolonged shutdown of its top tourist site.

A total of 3,900 tourists and local people were flown out of the tiny mountain village of Machu Picchu Pueblo this week after mudslides and torrential rains on Sunday destroyed sections of the railway that is the only form of transit in and out of the village below the Machu Picchu citadel. The remaining 1,277 travelers were evacuated Friday as authorities raced to complete the job against darkening skies, police Col. Santiago Vizcarra told The Associated Press.

Although the evacuation operation ended, rail operator Perurail said it will take months for workers to repair the railway that leads to the fabled Inca citadel.

Authorities said Machu Picchu will remain closed for weeks until the government can repair roads and railroad tracks washed out by mudslides and the raging Urubamba River.

Tourists mostly in their 20s and 30s were the ones still waiting for a helicopter ride Friday from this village outside the famous ruins that are perched on an Andean mountain ridge at 8,000 feet (2,400 meters). Flights began as the sun rose to a clear sky over the shaggy, green Andean peaks.

The hordes of outsiders caught in Machu Picchu Pueblo, a town of 4,000 people, strained food and water supplies.

Hotels overflowed, and travelers grew frustrated over chaotic relief efforts, price-gouging and scarce food. Many were left to eat from communal pots and bed down in train cars, outdoors and wherever they could find space.

Sofie Mag, a 19-year-old from Frederiksberg, Denmark, said a manager at the Sanctuary Lodge, right next to the ruins and a 45-minute bus ride from Machu Picchu Pueblo, let her and other tourists sleep on the floor of the building's restaurant.

"It was free and we got food also," Mag said. "We were very lucky to be up there. ... The first day was chaos."

Authorities closed the Inca trail, a popular four-day trek that ends in Machu Picchu, after a mudslide killed two people Tuesday. The trail also is likely to remain closed for weeks, although it has seldom been used at the height of the area's rainy season in February.

Rescue efforts weren complicated by bad weather and terrain — the village is wedged between a sheer, verdant mountainside and the Urubamba River. Rain prevented helicopters from landing in the town until after midday both Tuesday and Wednesday, but the skies stayed clear Thursday and much of Friday.

Evacuations were conducted by age — oldest and youngest first. The last middle-aged tourists left Thursday from a makeshift helicopter clearing, while younger backpackers played football with locals and lent a hand stacking sandbags and clearing train tracks. When mudslides Sunday destroyed the railway, many hotels and restaurants raised Tourists prices exorbitantly. who could afford to do so paid the higher rates, while others spent days sleeping in train cars and waiting for delayed food shipments.

Dina Sofamontanez, who runs Hostal El Inka, said she dropped prices when tourists ran out of money, while some hotels on the main avenue raised theirs fivefold



Foreign tourists take cover as a helicopter takes off while waiting their turn to be evacuated from the Machu Picchu Pueblo archeological site in Cuzco, Peru Friday, Jan. 29, 2010. Peruvian authorities are hoping to evacuate the last tourists stranded after heavy rains and mudslides in Peru blocked the train route to Machu Picchu, but the Inca citadel is likely to stay closed for weeks even if the weather improves.(AP

up to \$50 a night.

"It's all about money," she said. When ATMs ran dry, many backpackers slept in the central plaza. "We had to eat what the locals gave us, out of communal pots," 34-year-old Argentine tourist Sandra Marcheiani said. Some 400 Americans were said to be among those stranded when

train service initially stopped. Karel Schultz, 46, of Niagara Falls, New York, said before being flown out Thursday that most Americans paid for beds and bought their own food, while those who slept in the streets were mostly backpackers from Argentina and other South American countries.





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Saturday, January 30, 2010 WORLD NEWS

Aruba TODAY

Haitian Rebuilding

Continued from front page

Few tents have been supplied, rubble remains strewn in many streets, and signs begging for help in English — not Haitian Creole — dot nearly every street corner in Port-au-Prince. It could take another month to get the 200,000 tents needed for Haiti's homeless, said Marie-Laurence Jocelyn Lassegue, the culture and communications minister. Haiti now has fewer than 5,000 donated tents.

In the concrete slum of Canape Vert, an area devastated by the quake, dozens of people were pooling their labor and getting on with rebuilding.

"I have 44 years' worth of memories in this house," said Noel Marie Jose, 44, whose family was reinforcing crumbling walls with tin and wood.

"I got married here. I met my husband here. My mother braided my hair there where these walls used to stand," Jose said. "Even if it's unsafe, I can't imagine leaving. Even if the government helps, it will come too late. This is how it is in Haiti."

Surrounding her, concrete

homes were either crushed or had toppled down a hill. Jose and other families said they were worried both about the coming rainy season and fears they may lose their plots after demolitions because they either lack clear title or the government does not want them to rebuild on land it considers unsafe.

Reconstruction, resettlement and land titles are all priorities of the government of President Rene Preval — but so far in name only. The government has been nearly paralyzed by the quake — its own infrastructure, including the National Palace, was destroyed — and so far it has been limited to appeals for foreign aid and meetings with foreign donors that have yet to produce detailed plans for the emergencies it confronts.

Its first priority is moving people from areas prone to more earthquakes and landslides into tent cities that have sanitation and security but have yet to be built. Preval has engaged in dozens of meetings with potential outside contractors to discuss debris removal, sanitation and other long-term needs. Albert Ramdin, assistant secretary of the Organization of American States, has offered help in creating a new Haitian land registry — a process that could take months if not years because countless government records were destroyed in the quake.

Haitians ardently defend their property rights. If a family has occupied land for more than 10 years, they gain ownership rights even without a deed. For some families, small homes have been passed on through the generations. Few Haitians have insurance, and the loss of what few assets they have has crippled countless families.

Many have tired of living in tents improvised from tarps, sheets and bedspreads, opting to rebuild their homes rather than find new plots.

Lassegue said such rebuilding wouldn't be tolerated — and that the government wants to develop and implement a comprehensive reconstruction plan that might feature building codes, an anomaly in this impoverished nation.

"We've been sleeping outside but the rains will come soon," said Merilus Lovis, 27, taking wooden planks and erecting them for walls inside the foundation of his former home, where his wife and daughter died. "I'm scared of the floods on this hillside but I don't think that God would let such bad things happen twice."



Jean Claude Seyal, right, is helped by a friend to carry zinc sheets to rebuild his home that collapsed in the Jan. 12 earthquake in the Canape Vert neighborhood of Port-au-Prince, Friday, Jan. 29, 2010. Defying pleas to wait for Haiti's reconstruction, families are building new homes on top of old ones devastated in the earthquake.

Associated Press

Paul Louis, a 45-year-old porter, has started a business buying wood from scavengers and selling it on the street. He purchased a cracked and worn 1-by-8-foot board for about \$2 and was selling it Friday for \$3.

"People are afraid to build with concrete now," Louis said.

In another neighborhood, people dug through destroyed homes to salvage materials. Women did the wash amid the ruins.

"I have stayed, but I lost my home," said Thomas Brutus, who lives perched precariously on a debris-strewn hillside in a shack made from the remains of destroyed homes. "So I made this little house, even though I know it's dangerous. We have been here for 14 days and have received no help."

Many residents say they're staying because they grow vegetables on their small plots. Thousands of others have swarmed to improvised tent camps, where Elisabeth Byrs, an official of the U.N.'s humanitarian coordination office, said there is a "major concern" about sanitation.

About 200,000 people are in need of post-surgery followup treatment and an unknown number have untreated injuries, she said.

In other developments:

—Teamsoflootersoverwhelmed private security guards in the downtown commercial district, carting off refrigerators and washing machines as well as wood and steel from damaged businesses. Hundreds of bystanders protested the failure of Haitian police to stop them, and cheered "Viva U.S. military!" as a patrol from the U.S. 82nd Airborne Division

came in to restore order. Police belatedly arrested the men.

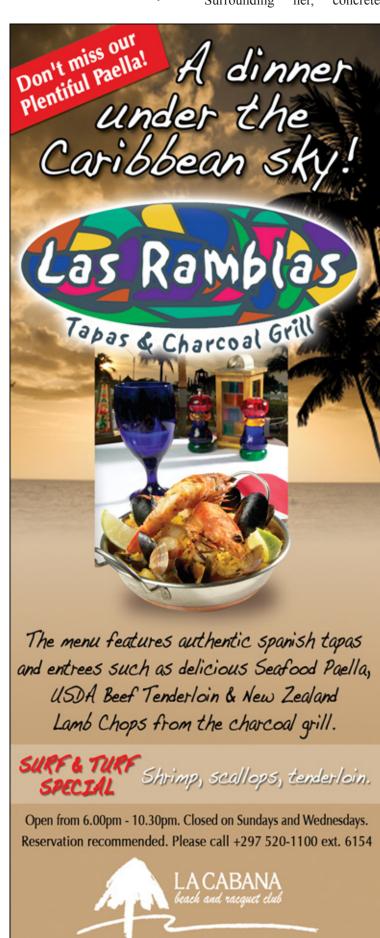
— Haiti hopes schools outside the capital not affected by the earthquake can open in coming weeks and that those not destroyed in Port-au-Prince could start operating in March, Lassegue said. An estimated 200 schools in Port-au-Prince were destroyed or partially damaged, many of them collapsing on students. Getting children into schools would help protect them from predators taking advantage of the quake that orphaned unknown thousands and separated thousands more from their parents. Haiti has always had a problem with traffickers looking for child and sex slaves.

— The United Nations asked for a \$700 million agricultural investment fund for Haiti to boost food production and create jobs. The 18-month plan is part of the government's strategy to rebuild the country, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization said. Top needs are seeds, tools and fertilizers so farmers can plan for spring planting season.

"The food situation in Haiti was already very fragile before the earthquake and Haiti was highly dependent on food imports," Alexander Jones, FAO's emergency response manager in Haiti, said in a statement.

— The United States has distributed some 43,000 radios to people in Port-au-Prince so they can hear public service announcements.

— The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration said it had suspended operations in Haiti so its agents can focus on the disaster. Traffickers have long favored Haiti as a transit point for South American drugs.





Heavy fighting in Somali capital kills 19

MOHAMED SHEIKH NOR, Associated Press Writer

HARGEISA, Somalia (AP) — Islamist insurgents launched multiple attacks on government bases and African Union peacekeeping troops Friday and at least 19 people, including women and children, were killed in the heaviest fighting in a day seen in Somalia's capital in months.

The battle came two days before President Sheik Sharif Sheik Ahmed marks his first year in power and underscored that his goal of ending violence in a nation shattered by nearly two decades of war remains as elusive as ever.

More than 30 people were wounded in the hours-long fighting, said Ali Muse, the head of the ambulance service in Mogadishu. Residents cowered in their homes, unable to venture out as the warring sides pounded each other with artillery, mortars and machine guns.

Sheik Ali Mohamud Rage, a spokesman for the insurgent al-Shabab group, said the early morning attacks were aimed at pre-empting an anticipated offensive against the Islamist militia, which controls much of southern regions, most of the capital and some central regions.

Rage said two fighters al-Shabab fighters were killed. Barigye Bahoku, spokesman for the AU peacekeepers, said one of the force's 5,100 soldiers was injured. Muse said women and children were among those killed but didn't know how many.

Somali police spokesman Col. Abdullahi Hassan Barise said the insurgent attack was beaten back.

After a lull throughout the day, fighting resumed for about 30 minutes Friday evening. Gunshots could be heard in the southern part of Mogadishu.

Ahmed Hassan said mortar shells hit the homes of his neighbors, killing four of them. Hassan said he and other men moved the bodies away from the wreckage to another house nearby. He also said there were five people wounded, but they could not take them to a hospital because it was night and it wasn't safe to move around.

When Ahmed was sworn in on Jan. 31, 2009, world leaders touted his government as the "best option" for Somalia. At the time, Ahmed was co-leader of an Islamic insurgency and there was hope he and his supporters would be able to draw in more of the Islamists and help stabilize the capital, which has been the epicenter of the Somali conflict.

Foreign governments in April pledgedmorethan\$250 million in money and resources for Somalia's fledgling security forces, but only a third has been delivered.

Ahmed has been unable to ride a groundswell of support to put pressure on the insurgents and hasn't established a national security force capable of defeating them, analysts say. Al-Shabab, which the U.S. State Department has designated as a terrorist organization with links to al-Qaida, and its Islamic Party ally strike government forces and installations and AU bases almost at will.

"The key problem facing Ahmed's government is the lack of a reliable force," said Rashid Abdi of the International Crisis Group.

The current army and police force has a reputation for corruption, with members even setting up extortion checkpoints in government-controlled areas. They refuse to allow cars and people to pass without them paying a fee — a throwback to the days when Mogadishu was divided among warlords whose militiaman extorted money at checkpoints.

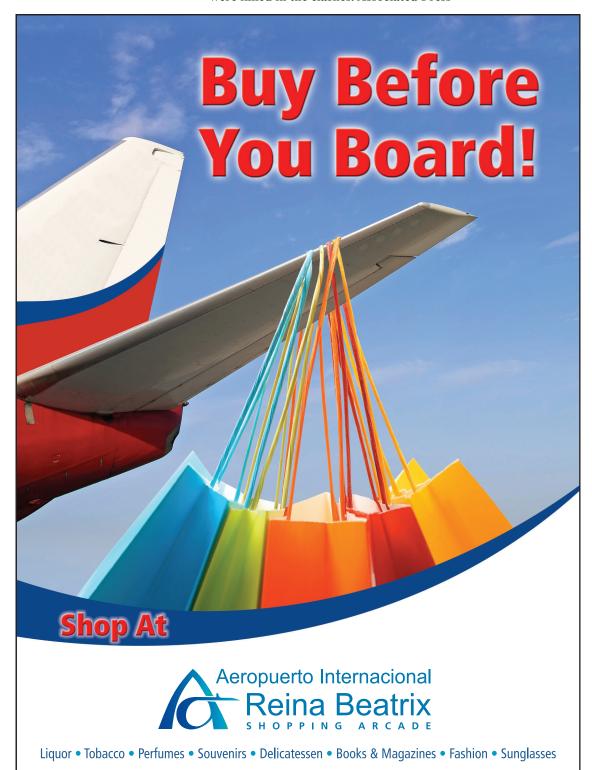
Ahmed's government can't pay its own security forces regular salaries because donors have been slow to release money, but when money does come in officials allegedly pad the payroll with nonexistent personnel.

Abdi said the government must create a highly trained, highly motivated force with enough resources and regular salaries.

Somalia's humanitarian crisis, meanwhile, has gotten worse. The number of Somalis who need humanitarian aid has swelled from 1.8 million in January 2008 to 3.6 million today even as the lack of security, particularly in southern Somalia, has forced many aid agencies to suspend operations. Earlier this month, the U.N. food agency suspended distribution of desperately needed aid because of attacks on its staff.



A civilian is brought to Medina hospital in Mogadishu, Somalia, after being injured during fighting, Friday, Jan. 29, 2010. Somali insurgents sparked the heaviest fighting in the capital for months on Friday after they launched simultaneous attacks on government forces and peacekeepers. A medical official said several people were killed in the clashes. Associated Press





Rosie O'Donnell looks at different forms of family

By DAVID BAUDER, AP Television Writer

PASADENA, Calif. – HBO wasn't looking for a political film when it asked Rosie O'Donnell to make a documentary about families, but realized in progress that it had one.

"A Family Is a Family Is a Family: A Rosie O'Donnell Celebration" debuts Sunday evening (7 p.m. EST). It's primarily children talking about their families: adopted children, those with two moms, those with two dads, those taken care of by a grandparent, single parents, multiracial blends. Oh, and a mother and a father living under the same roof.

All were comfortable with their own families, even if some in society are not comfortable with all the different family configurations.

"All children need to see their own lives reflected in the media and need to be included when there are discussions about family," said O'Donnell, who has four children.

"To vilify a whole group of people, or children, because of the sexual orientation of their parents, I don't know if that does anything to help the next generation," the 47-year-old comedian-actress said.

Producers set out initially to find nontraditional families with the idea of comforting anxieties,

showing these children that deep down, families are families. Seeing them all together made Sheila Nevins, head of HBO's documentary unit, see that it was making a political point.

With the effort to be all-inclusive, Nevins said that near the end, she realized they hadn't talked to enough families with a married mother and father.

"There are no endorsements," she said. "It's just kids expressing what it means to be in a family."

Some animation and music from the likes of Ziggy Marley singing with his mother and sister complement the kids. Two moms are shown preparing to get married with their children involved, two dads say a prayer at the kitchen table with the daughter they adopted, and three brothers who live with their mother and grandmother mug for the camera.

Even her own children sometime struggle with issues of family identity, with adoption and test-tube conception, O'Donnell said. She asked all four what would be their ideal family and got four different answers, including one who said a mother and father.

O'Donnell and Nevins talked about whether O'Donnell and her family should be in the film, particularly as it was being made at a period



In this publicity image released by HBO, former talk show host Rosie O'Donnel is shown with her children, clockwise from back row center, Blake, Parker, Vivienne, and Chelsea, promoting her HBO special, 'A Family Is a Family Is a Family: A Rosie O'Donnell Celebration,' premiering on Jan. 31, 2010. (AP Photo/HBO, Tom LeGoff)

of transition with O'Donnell and her partner Kelli Carpenter separating.

Ultimately, they decided it would seem strange without them. "I wanted it to be a stew, a stew with equal portions of everything — a little bit of me, a little carrots, a little celery," O'Donnell said. "I just wanted to be one of the many vegetables in the pot."





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BISS TODAY

Stocks pare gains even as GDP surges 5.7 percent

By STEPHEN BERNARD AP Business Writer

NEW YORK – Stocks gave up their gains and were narrowly mixed Friday afternoon as investors questioned the economy's ability to sustain a big fourth-quarter growth rate. Disappointing earnings at technology companies pulled stocks down from an early gain.

The market was heading toward a loss for January on the last trading day of the month.

The Commerce Department said gross domestic product, the broadest measure of the economy, expanded at an annual rate of 5.7 percent during the fourth quarter, easily topping forecast of 4.5 percent. The strong GDP growth, coupled with an upbeat report on manufacturing in the Midwest, reassured investors that the economy is continuing its recovery.

However, the report also raised questions about the sustainability of a recovery. Most of the fourth-quarter growth came from companies replenishing low inventories. Rebuilding inventories tends to create just a temporary bump in economic growth.

"The GDP report looks shiny and new on the surface," said Alan Gayle, senior investment strategist for RidgeWorth Investments. "But once you open up the hood, you start to see its not as great as on the outside."

Michael Sheldon, chief market strategist at RDM Financial Group said that the report "is going to leave doubts" in the minds of investors who are looking for consistent economic improvement.

Questions about the recovery just add another concern to market that has halted a 10-month rally. Investors were already uneasy after China

said it was trying to limit its economic growth and President Barack Obama announced plans for a major overhaul of banking regulations. Shares have fallen sharply since hitting a 15-month high last week.

In afternoon trading, the Dow rose 42.85, or 0.4 percent, to 10,163.31. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 1.40, or 0.1 percent, to 1,085.93, while the Nasdaq composite index fell 4.13, or 0.2 percent, to 2,174.87, lagging the other indicators following a disappointing earnings report from Microsoft Corp.

The Chicago Purchasing Managers Index rose more than expected, providing some evidence the manufacturing sector, at least in the Midwest, is rebounding as well. The Chicago PMI climbed to 61.5 in January from 58.7 last month. Economists were expecting a reading of 57.5 for January.

The Chicago report is seen as a precursor to the national Institute for Supply Management report that is due out Monday.

While the economic news was somewhat reassuring, the market is still wary about government plans to increase the regulation of banks. Obama's calls last week to restrict the size of banks and to limit risky trading by big financial institutions helped spark the sell-off in stocks. Since first announcing the plan, Obama has provided few specifics about how far the restrictions would go in limiting bank trading.

"Political uncertainty always gets people nervous," said Peter Zuger, co-portfolio manager of the Touchstone Mid Cap Value fund.

The unknowns coming out of Washington have helped stall the rally that sent the



FILE - In this Jan. 25, 2010 file photo, Joseph Murray, right, works with fellow traders on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stocks rose moderately Friday, Jan. 29, after the government's gross domestic product report showed that the economy grew at its fastest pace in six years. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

S&P 500 up 60.3 percent. But one political worry was put to rest Thursday when Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke won Senate confirmation for a second term.

Investors are also concerned about the Chinese government trying to limit rapid growth in that country. China has forced banks to hold more money in reserve as it looks to curb lending to avoid speculative bubbles and inflation.

A potential slowdown in China's growth has hurt the stocks of U.S. companies that rely heavily on exports.

The market's recent retreat has more than offset gains seen earlier in the month, which could be a sign for how the rest of the year will unfold for stocks. Since 1950, the S&P 500's full-year direction has matched its January performance more than 90 percent of the time, according to the Stock Trader's Almanac.

Advancing stocks outnumbered decliners by

about 6 to 5 on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 522.1 million shares, compared with 443.2 million traded at the same point Thursday.

Fourth-quarter earnings reports continued, and extended the pattern of mixed results among the companies that have already reported.

Microsoft said late Thursday it beat analysts' expectations, but the company reported slow spending on software by corporations. Analysts say companies can no longer get by just beating expectations; they need to show revenue growth and signs of future strengthening.

The company's stock fell 59 cents, or 2 percent, to \$28.57. It was the second straight day worries about technology companies' outlooks hurt the market.

Bond prices dipped Friday. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, rose to 3.65 percent from 3.64 percent late Thursday.

The dollar rose against other major currencies, while gold prices fell. The dollar has been strengthening as concerns remain about sovereign debt in Europe, especially Greece. The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 2.05, or 0.3 percent, to 609.98.

Overseas markets were mixed. Asian stocks stumbled on disappointing company forecasts and Toyota's recall of millions of cars, while Europe's major indexes rose following a report that showed inflation remained relatively benign in the 16 countries that use the euro and the strong U.S. GDP report. Low inflation paves the way for the European Central Bank to keep its key interest rate as a historic low of 1 percent.

Japan's Nikkei stock fell 2.1 percent, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng dropped 1.2 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 rose 0.8 percent, Germany's DAX index gained 1.2 percent, and France's CAC-40 climbed 1.4 percent.

Saturday, January 30, 2010 SPORTS

Warner brings end to stirring 12-year NFL career

BOB BAUM

AP Sports Writer

TEMPE, Arizona (AP) — Kurt Warner has called an end to one of the great storybook careers in NFL history.

The 38-year-old quarterback announced his retirement from the game on Friday after a dozen years in a league that at first rejected him, then revered him as he came from nowhere to lead the lowly St. Louis Rams to two Super Bowls, winning the first of them.

Written off as a has-been, he rose again to lead the long-suffering Arizona Cardinals to the Super Bowl a year ago.

Warner, a man of deep faith who carried a Bible to each post-game news conference, walked away with a year left on a two-year, \$23 million



Arizona Cardinals quarterback Kurt Warner announces his retirement from football Friday, Jan. 29, 2010 at the Cardinals' training facility in Tempe, Ariz.

Associated Press

he said. "I don't think I could have dreamt it would have played out like it has, but I've been humbled every day that I woke up the last 12 years and amazed that God would choose to use me to do what he's given me the opportunity to do." Warner had one of the greatest playoff performances ever in Arizona's 51-45

overtime victory over Green Bay on Jan. 10, but sustained

a brutal hit in the 45-14

divisional round loss at New

contract, knowing he still had

the skills to play at the highest

"It's been an amazing ride,"

Orleans six days later.
"He has had a dominant career. He's a good person," Cardinals defensive tackle Darnell Dockett said. "He's got to do what's best for his family. He played long enough. He took us to the Super Bowl last year. We had a great season this year. It's a good thing. If you're going to

The Cardinals signed Warner to a one-year contract in 2005 largely because no other team would give him a chance to be a starter. His opportunities over the next two years were scattered and even when coach Ken Whisenhunt took over in 2007, Warner was the backup to Matt Leinart.

go out, go out on top.

But when Leinart went down with an injury five games into the season, Warner got his chance. He started 48 of the remaining 49 games of his career. Warner leaves the game with a legacy that could land him in the Hall of Fame even though he didn't get his first start until he was 28.

In a comparison with the 14 quarterbacks to make the Hall of Fame in the last 25 years, Warner has a better career completion percentage, yards per pass attempt and yards per game. Only Dan Marino had more career 300-yard passing games.

Bosh, 7 first-timers headed to All-Star game

BRIAN MAHONEY AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Local products Chris Bosh of Toronto and Deron Williams of Utah are headed back to Dallas for next month's NBA All-Star game, which will include seven first-time selections.

The Boston Celtics and Atlanta Hawks each had two players picked as reserves on Thursday for the Feb. 14 game at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington. Paul Pierce and Rajon Rondo were chosen from the Celtics, while the Hawks are sending Joe Johnson and Al Horford.

Rondo and Horford will both make their first All-Star appearances, as will Oklahoma City swingman Kevin Durant, Charlotte's Gerald Wallace, Memphis forward Zach Randolph, Chicago's Derrick Rose and Williams.

Among those missing out were New York's David Lee and Los Angeles Clippers center Chris Kaman.

Bosh, from Dallas, is an All-Star for the fifth straight season.

"Just to be able to be an All-Star year in and year out, that's a special feeling, but the fact that it's in Dallas is kind of a bittersweet thing," Bosh said. "Sweet because I get to play in front of my home crowd and it's bitter because everybody wants tickets."

Bosh, Pierce and Johnson are the only reserves on the Eastern Conference roster with All-Star game experience.

"There's going to come a day that they don't pick me," Pierce said. "So every time I get a chance to make it, it's definitely an



Toronto Raptors forward Chris Bosh reacts after making a basket in the final seconds of the game against the Miami Heat during second-half NBA game action on Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2010, in Toronto.

Associated Press

honor.'

The remainder of the Western Conference reserves were guards Chris Paul of New Orleans and Brandon Roy of Portland, forward Pau Gasol of the Los Angeles Lakers and forward Dirk Nowitzki, who was picked for the ninth time and will represent the home Dallas Mavericks.

"It is an honor to represent the Mavericks in my new hometown of Dallas," Nowitzki said. "I am always thankful for the opportunity to play in the All-Star game. We hope to put on a good show for our fans."



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Points, Imada tied for **lead at Torrey Pines**

DOUG FERGUSON AP Golf Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — D.A. Points saved his best golf for the tougher course at Torrey Pines and wound up in a share of the second-round lead with Ryuji Imada in the Farmers Insurance Open on Friday.

Points avoided a shaky start with a series of good par saves, then finished strong with an eagle and a birdie over the final four holes on the South Course for a 7under 65. Imada also played the South, which hosted the U.S. Open in 2008, and shot

Imada, who was runner-up to Tiger Woods by eight shots in 2008 at the U.S. PGA Tour event, has yet to make a bogey.

They were at 11-under 133, giving them a head start going into the weekend when it's far easier to keep track of who's doing well.

Torrey Pines has two of the most distinct courses on the U.S. PGA Tour, with the South playing 2½ shots easier than the North. Points apparently didn't get the memo.

"Funny enough, I've played this course a lot more than I've played the other one, out here," he said.

They were two strokes ahead of Matt Every, who had a 70 on the South, and Michael Sim of Australia, who had a tournament-best 62 on the North Course and finished with an eagle.

Robert Allenby, who opened with a 67 on what he called the "real course"—the South — didn't fare quite as well on the North as he struggled on the bumpy greens. He still had a 69 and was three shots back going into the weekend.

Phil Mickelson didn't go as low as he wanted, but he also finished with a flourish for a 67 that left him only four shots behind in his first tournament of the year. Mickelson spent most of his time after the round answering questions about the old Ping wedge in his bag with square grooves, and Scott McCarron accusing him of "cheating" for using

"I think he's saying the rule is a terrible rule," Mickelson

More important to Mickelson is having a chance on a hometown course that has befuddled him since the South Course was revamped to accommodate a U.S.

and I feel pretty comfortable Open. Mickelson is a threetime winner at Torrey Pines, but not since 2001. A victory this week would be his third in four starts, something he has never done in his career. The final two rounds are held on the South Course, and some believe the tournament doesn't really start until Saturday.

> Points, with a 36-hole lead for only the third time, relishes two more days on the South. He not only played the U.S. Open, but the Junior World Championship at Torrey Pines twice. That brought back some sour memories, although it had nothing to do with his scores. Points said he tied for seventh at the Junior Worlds in his last year, which qualified him to compete in a junior event in Japan.

> "Like a stupid kid, I didn't go to Japan," he said. "I went and played in the Maxfli Junior PGA because it was on ESPN, and I thought it would be cool to be on TV rather than to have the experience of going to Japan. I kind of regret that part."

> Twenty players separated by five shots going into the weekend on a course that can be punishing for short hitters who aren't in the fairway, and everyone

Lead by Points



D.A. Points urges on his birdie putt on the eighth hole but settles for par during the second round of the Farmers **Insurance Open golf tournament at Torrey Pines Golf Course** Friday Jan. 29, 2010 in San Diego. Points is tied for the lead at 11-under par. Associated Press

who can't judge the distance to reach the proper spots on the greens.

Mickelson struggled on the greens, missing three birdie opportunities in a span of four holes. The other was the 323-vard second hole, where he pounded a driver that barely cleared a bunker and hopped onto the green for a two-putt birdie.

"I didn't have many birdie putts, but I was able to make all the tough par putts and kind of salvage the round," Mickelson said.

Allenby referred to the North Course as "Mickey Mouseish," and while his score didn't indicate that — a 69 — he had few complaints with his position. Allenby has

two victories and a runner-up finish on three tours in his last three starts, and is playing as well as anyone.

The struggle was not so much the greens, but his emotions. He wore a pink shirt with a purpose for the second

"One year ago today at 9 a.m., my mother drew her last breath," he said somberly. Allenby's mother died of cancer on Jan. 29, and he spent Friday thinking about his shots, and thinking about his mother.

"I was up and down like a yo-yo," he said. "That was one of the worst times of my life. What I'm trying to do now is make this one of the best weeks of my life."



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NHL Roundup

Blackhawks edge Sharks in high-stakes shootout

SAN JOSE, California (AP) Troy Brouwer scored his second goal of the game 1:37 into overtime to lead the Chicago Blackhawks to a 4-3 victory over the San Jose Sharks in Thursday's clash between the NHL's top two teams.

Brouwer scored one of three first-period goals for Chicago, which took a 3-0 lead before the midway point of the frame but needed overtime to beat the Sharks.

Joe Pavelski scored twice

and Manny Malhotra added another for San Jose, who saw their lead in the standings over Chicago cut to a single point. Senators 4, Penguins 1

In Pittsburgh, Ottawa matched a club record winning streak of eight with a defeat of Pittsburgh.

Brian Elliot made 30 saves, while Mike Fisher, Chris Kelly, Jason Spezza and Nick Foligno scored for the Senators, who matched the Washington Capitals for the NHL's longest active winning Elliott has been in the nets for the last six Senators victories, allowing only six goals during that span.

Evgeni Malkin scored after just 1:34 in for the Penguins, whose lead over the Senators for fourth place in the Eastern Conference was trimmed to three points.

Coyotes 3, Flames 2, SO In Glendale, Arizona, Phoenix blew a two-goal, secondperiod lead, but recovered to inflict Calgary's ninth straight loss.

Robert Lang and Lauri



Korpikoski scored in the shootout for the Coyotes, after Keith Yandle and Shane Doan had given them an early lead in regulation.

Phoenix earned its 31st win of the season in its 54th game, the fastest the Coyotes have reached that total in the 30vear history of the franchise.

Mark Giordano and rookie Mikael Backlund scored for the Flames, who are their longest losing streak since dropping 11 straight in 1985-86.

Wild 1, Avalanche 0

In Denver, Martin Havlat's late goal saw Minnesota inflict Colorado's first loss in 20 days.

Avalanche goalie Craig Anderson was going for his third shutout in four games, but his shutout streak ended at 126 minutes, 24 seconds.

The Wild have won five of six games against the Avalanche this season.

Kings 4, Blue Jackets 1

In Columbus, Ohio, Anze Kopitar scored his 100th and 101st career goals as Los Angeles downed Columbus to tie a season high with its fourth straight win.

Matt Greene and Ryan Smyth also scored for the Kings, who have won five straight on the road.

Columbus' Antoine Vermette scored his 17th goal of the season midway through the third period.

Thrashers 4, Flyers 3

In Philadelphia, Jim Slater's second goal of the game lifted Atlanta over Philadelphia.

The Thrashers came from a 3-1 deficit to hand Philadelphia its first loss this season when up after two periods. The Flyers were 22-0.

Ilya Kovalchuk and Rich Peverley also scored for the Thrashers, who moved a point ahead of the Flyers, who entered the night in a fourway tie for sixth place in the Eastern Conference.

Claude Giroux, Arron Asham and Dan Carcillo had goals

Philadelphia.

Hurricanes 4, Islanders 1

In Raleigh, North Carolina, Cam Ward made 26 saves to help Carolina defeat New York.

New captain Eric Staal scored his third goal in two games as the Hurricanes won a third straight. Matt Cullen, Stephane Yelle and Jussi Jokinen also found the net for the hosts.

Matt Moulson scored his 20th goal this season with 4:31 remaining but the Islanders third consecutive lost a games.

Blues 2, Oilers 1

In Edmonton, Alberta, St. Louis handed Edmonton its 12th straight loss.

Eric Brewer and Alexander Steen had goals as for the Blues, who extended their peculiar record of being much stronger on the road than at home.

NBA Roundup

Lewis layup sees Magic edge Celtics

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) Division lead was cut to six — Rashard Lewis' layup with 1.3 seconds remaining saw the Orlando Magic cap a rally from a 16-point deficit to beat the Boston Celtics 96-94 in the NBA on Thursday. Lewis took the ball after a broken play and sprinted down the baseline past Kevin Garnett for an uncontested layup.

Rasheed Wallace missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer, giving the Magic their second victory in three games against the Celtics this season. Orlando moved level with Atlanta atop the Southeast Division.

Lewis led the Magic with 23 points, and Dwight Howard overcame early foul trouble to score 11 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter. He also had 10 rebounds.

Ray Allen had 20 points for Boston, whose Atlantic games.

Suns 112, Mavericks 106 In Phoenix, reserves Goran Dragic, Jared Dudley and Louis Amundson led an unlikely Phoenix comeback with 14 fourth-quarter points that sank Dallas.

Dragic finished with 13 points, Amundson had 12, and Dudley eight.

Amare Stoudemire had 22 points before spending the entire fourth quarter on the bench, Steve Nash added 19 points and 11 assists, and Jason Richardson had 17 points to help the Suns snap a three-game losing streak against the Mavericks.

Jason Terry led Dallas with 19 points, and Dirk Nowitzki had 17. Nowitzki played in his 884th game to surpass Brad Davis as Dallas' career leader.



Orlando Magic forward Rashard Lewis, right, goes up for the game-winning basket in front of Boston Celtics forward Rasheed Wallace, left, and Rajon Rondo (9) at the end of the second half of an NBA basketball game in Orlando, Fla., Thursday, Jan. 28, 2010. The Magic won 96-

Associated Press

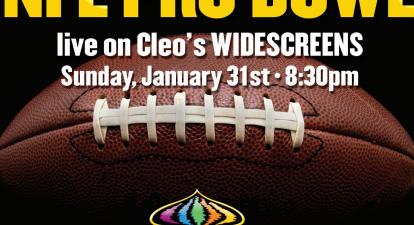
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Federer advances to Australian Open final

DENNIS PASSA AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Roger Federer is through to his 22nd Grand Slam final after defeating Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 in a near-flawless

display Friday at the Australian Open.

Federer, seeking his fourth Australian title, hopes to reverse his tear-filled exit from last year's final when he was beaten by Rafael Nadal, the left-handed Spaniard's first hard-court title.

This time, the man between Federer and another title here Sunday will be Andy Murray, whose motivation has been fueled by a 74-year drought for British men in Grand Slam singles. He's taking part in his second final, having been beaten at the U.S. Open in 2008 by Federer.

Murray beat Marin Cilic in the Australian Open semifinals after ousting Nadal in the quarterfinals. Now, hopes are high in the United Kingdom that he could be the first British man since Fred Perry in 1936 to win a major singles title.

"I know he'd like to win the first for British tennis since what is it, 150,000 years?" Federer joked to the crowd amid much laughter. "The poor guy who has to go through those moments over and over again ... "

Later, Federer, in a calm, casual way, sent some verbal shots to Murray.

"I don't feel like the pressure's really on me having to do it again, because I did it before," said Federer, who has won a record 15 Grand Slam singles titles. "I think he really needs it more than I do. So I think the pressure's big on him. We'll see how he's going to handle it. It's not going to be easy for him, that's for sure."

If Federer plays Sunday the way he did Friday against Tsonga, the drought could continue for at least another Grand Slam.

"Don't mess with Roger," one fan wrote on a sign at Rod Laver Arena. And the shell-shocked Tsonga didn't.

Federer reached his 18th final in the last 19 Grand Slam events by overpowering the 2008 Australian Open finalist. His semifinal loss here to Novak Djokovic in 2008 being the only break in the finals

sequence

Federer did not face a break point against Tsonga. "It's nice going through a match like that," Federer said. "I think against top players, it's always positive if you can win the first set."

"Maybe mentally he was more fatigued than physically," added Federer. "That's unfortunate for him"

Tsonga hit a backhand into the net on break point to give Federer a 2-1 lead in the third set, and the match was all but over. The 24-year-old Frenchman double-faulted on break point to give Federer a 4-1 lead in the third, and Federer clinched it on his serve in 88 minutes when Tsonga hit a forehand wide.

"Yes, there are moments when it's frustrating where you can't put the ball where you want it and you make mistakes," Tsonga said.

Asked to provide advice to Murray, Tsonga said: "Be ready to run."

Earlier Friday, Serena and Venus Williams won their fourth Australian Open doubles title, beating Cara Black and Liezel Huber 6-4, 6-3.

The Williams sisters broke Huber's service to open the second set and won the match when they again broke Huber, clinching it on a winning reflex volley by Serena. The sisters high-fived each other at the side of the court after the win.

The Williams sisters won the Australian title for the first time in 2001 and added championships in 2003 and last year. Black, of Zimbabwe, and Huber, a South African-born American citizen, won the Australian Open doubles title in 2007 and were the top-seeded team in the tournament this year.

Serena has 11 singles majors and is hoping for a 12th in the Australian Open final on Saturday against Justine Henin.

Henin's stunning success comes only two tournaments into her return from a 20-month retirement, a comeback that the Belgian herself has called "extraordinary" and Williams called an "amazing" story.

"It's more than a dream for me," Henin said Friday. "The challenge of facing the No. 1 player in the world is magnificent."

Henin and Williams both agree that their center-



Roger Federer Switzerland celebrates defeating Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France in their Men's singles semifinal match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Friday, Jan. 29, 2010.

Associated Press

court showdown will be as much a mental battle as a physical one. "We both want it. But we'll just see who's playing better tomorrow," Williams said.

The two have played 13 times, including six Grand Slam showdowns that went as far as only the semifinals. Williams holds a 7-6 edge in their overall matchups. In Grand Slams, Henin leads 4-2.

Henin has said she was inspired to return to tennis in part by the comeback of fellow Belgian Kim Clijsters, who won the U.S. Open after taking off two years to get married and have a baby.

The return of Henin and Clijsters has restored some life and rivalries to the women's game, which has many promising newcomers but suffered some lackluster finals in their absence.

If Williams wins, she will tie Billie Jean King for a career total of 12 major singles titles.

"It will be a defining match for both of us," Williams said.



SPURIS TODAY

Ganassi still 'team to beat' in Daytona's 24 Hours

ANTONIO GONZALEZ
Associated Press Writer
DAYTONA BEACH, Florida
(AP) — David Donohue was
alone and nestled in the corner
of Victory Lane at Daytona
International Speedway for
a photo shoot, watching the
star drivers of Chip Ganassi
Racing gobble up all the
attention.

Even after winning the 24 Hours at Daytona last year, Donohue enters Saturday's sports car endurance race knowing he's not the favorite. And neither is any other driver without Ganassi stitched on the uniform.

"With the depth of the Ganassi resources," Donohue said, "they will always be the team to beat."

Maybe this year more than ever.

Donohue and the Brumos RacingteamheldoffNASCAR star Juan Pablo Montoya and the star-studded lineup a year ago in the closest finish by far in the history of the event, ending Ganassi's three-year reign atop American sports car racing's crown jewel. That upset in the twice-around-the-clock event gives this year's race a little added spice.

Montoya will share the driver's seat of the No. 02 BMW Riley with fellow Indianapolis 500 winners Scott Dixon and Dario Franchitti, and NASCAR's Jamie McMurray. And with Scott Pruett leading Ganassi's No. 01 BMW Riley, the organization is not only aiming for one car at the top, it's hoping for two.

"I would think that we are the favorites," Montoya said. "I think everybody is looking to knock us off again. We won three in a row, and we finished second last year. This year, it would be nice if we had two cars in contention. It would be fun if we could make that like a one-two finish."



Rojas, of Mexico; Scott Pruett; and Justin Wilson, of England, talk during an evening practice session for the Rolex 24 hour auto race at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla., Thursday, Jan. 28, 2010.

Associated Press

The loss has made Ganassi more determined than ever to reclaim the title.

Montoya and his teammates complained last year that their car was too slow and couldn't compete with some of the other Daytona Prototypes. They believe now, for the most part, the cars are up to speed and keeping up won't be a problem.

"As long as I don't lose six or seven car lengths on the straightaway, I'll be fine," Montoya said. "But when we were losing what I was losing last year on the straight, it wasn't even funny. Hopefully now, I drive, give it to the next guy and hope by the time I wake up I'm still in the race." Ganassi's cars aren't the only ones featuring big-name drivers crossing over to Grand-

Am.

Four-time NASCAR champion Jimmie Johnson headlines the GAINSCO/Bob Stallings Racing team that has had a rough week of practice. Johnson damaged the rear of the No. 99 Chevrolet Riley on Thursday when he slammed into a wall trying to avoid a slower car.

The No. 99 car missed qualifying because of the wreck and will begin last in 45th place. The team worked overnight to get the car back on the track on Friday, and Johnson said the crash shouldn't change the way they run because the length of the race makes starting position less important.

Max Angelelli took the pole on Thursday, and Ozz Negri will start outside him on the front row. The No. 02 Ganassi led by Montoya will start fourth, and the No. 01 will be fifth. Donohue will be seventh with Brumos Racing.

Johnson says that even with all he has accomplished in NASCAR, he'd like to win a 24 Hours title.

"It would be really high on my list of accomplishments because it's so different than the rest of the stuff I run," he said. "It's a helluva an adventure."

One that won't be easy.

Most NASCAR drivers said the toughest part about weaving around the 3.5-mile (5.7-kilometer) road course — not including the winding infield, the NASCAR oval's high banks and the narrow turns — is navigating through traffic. Especially with

Daytona Prototypes running straightaway speeds at least 20 mph (30 kph) faster than the GT cars that will also be racing.

Then there's trying to rest amid the endless endurance race. Switching drivers. The different strategy.

All things Ganassi does best. For Donohue, that's what made his win for Brumos so special. He said the recognition he received from other drivers and crew members was overwhelming.

But winning once might not be enough to be on Ganassi's level.

"I never would have guessed one race win would have meant so much, but it has," Donohue said. "But I guess we have to repeat to get that level of attention."

On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

Saturday, January 31, 2010

Rbc/Rbtt Caribbean

Youngsters Benefit From Children's Cancer Fund

ORANJESTAD - Two children from across the region have become the first beneficiaries of the RBC/RBTT Caribbean Children's Cancer Fund.

The first to receive financial assistance for medical treatment were two boys—a 16-year-oldfromGrenadaand a 2-year-old from Trinidad and Tobago. Applications for funding other childhood cancer patients are also being considered.

In June 2009, RBC and RBTT launched the Caribbean Children's Cancer Fund, with a starting contribution of approximately US\$188,000. In total, the organization will donate approximately US\$940,000 over the next five years to the Fund and has pledged to raise more money over the same period to fight pediatric cancer.

Since its launch, RBTT employees across the region have carried out several fund-raisers in support of the cancer fund, including an art competition, bake sales, bingo, flea markets, movie days, Christmas card sales and breakfast mornings. Through their efforts, as well as substantial donations from the public, an additional sum of approximately US\$ 60,000 was deposited to the cancer fund as at December 31st, 2009. RBTT and RBC wishes to thank all who have contributed to the initiative.

Over the next five years, fundraisers will be carried out in all RBTT jurisdictions in an effort to fight the growing problem of childhood cancer in the Caribbean.

Rugia Siliee and Maikel Ras honored at the Radisson

PALM BEACH – The Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa held an elegant recognition banquet in honor of its distinguished superachieving colleagues.

During the event, twelve winners of the coveted Colleague of the Month title and three winners of the Manager of the Trimester award were given public praise and recognition for their stellar performances in 2009.

The evening also announced the ultimate winners with

Rugia Silee as Colleague of the Year, and Maikel Ras as Manager of the Year, bestowing them with handsomely engraved plaques, flowers and generous gifts.

In his welcome address General Manager Rob Smith paused



to reflect on the leadership qualities possessed by the winners, and on their ability to move and motivate their fellow-colleagues to great collective achievement.

Continued on page 3

Telethon Aruba Raises More Than 1,000,000 Florins

Haiti Receives 12,500 Florins Donation From The Aruba Marriott

PALM BEACH – On January 25, 2010, Betico Day, the Aruba Marriott, amongst other local companies, donated 12,500 florins to the Red Cross Aruba telethon event. The charity was organized to raise funds for the survivors of the recent earthquake in Haiti.

Through generous donations by Marriott associates, the Marriot Care Foundation and profits of Stellaris Casino's event "Caya 101", the company gathered the sum of 12,500 florins in total.

Marriott associates Marjorie St. German and Marie Danie Croes, descended from Haiti, handed the 12,500 florins check and thanked Aruba and the Aruba Marriott for their efforts in helping their country. The 6 hour telethon was an enormous success with a total

of 1,000,000.00 florins raised for Haiti. Throughout the event, volunteers were in place to receive contributions by phone. Local cellular providers facilitated

aids by sms and local banks had set up ATMs for people to donate at the telethon. The event was broadcasted live on national TV and radio and included performances by local and international artists and bands.



Besides the effort of the Aruba Marriott locally, through the J. Williard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation, Marriott International has donated \$500,000 to the Red Cross Haiti Relief and Development Fund to aid with immediate



relief efforts such as providing water, medical supplies, food and shelter in Haiti.

The Aruba Marriott thanks all its associates for their contribution to help Haiti in this time of need.

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Featuring international artists Shaggy, Sean Paul, Sean Kingston and many more

"Rise Again" featuring Caribbean stars

Digicel today announced details of its collaboration with international reggae artist, Shaggy, and renowned producer, Christopher Birch, to write and produce a song – Rise Again – to raise money for the Digicel Haiti Relief Fund.

Rise Again is a Caribbean song, which was written and performed by Caribbean artists for the people of Haiti.

After being approached by Digicel to write the song, Shaggy went straight into the studio with Christopher Birch, producer of his diamond-selling album – Hot

Shots. The song was written in less than a day and the rhythm produced within five days, and artists such as Sean Paul and Sean Kingston – as well as other top Caribbean artists – were quick to come on board and lend their support. Rise Again is being released worldwide and 100% of the proceeds will go directly to the Digicel Haiti Relief Fund.

Speaking about the launch of the song, Shaggy said: "Rise Again is for the people of Haiti. It is to show them that we are here for them and that we will support them each step of the way as they





begin rebuilding their lives which were shattered by the earthquake. I am very proud of this song and the collaboration with Digicel. With

today's launch of Rise Again, we can raise much needed funds to support the relief efforts in Haiti."

Digicel Group CEO, Colm Delves, said: "As part of the Digicel Haiti Relief Fund, we wanted to collaborate with international artists to produce a song that would support the people of Haiti who lost so much as a result of the earthquake. People across the world can purchase Rise Again and all proceeds will go directly to the relief efforts in Haiti."

Rise Again is already making waves in the US with E News carrying a preview of the song on the E!TV Entertainment News.

Artists featured on Rise Again include Shaggy; Sean Paul; Sean Kingston; Barbadian Artists, Alison Hinds, Shontelle Layne and Edwin Yearwood; Trinidadian Soca Artists, David Rudder, Kees Dieffenthaller and Destra

Garcia; Jamaican reggae artists, Tessanne Chin and Etana; and Haitian artiste, Belo.

As the single largest investor in Haiti with a total investment of U\$300 million since its launch in 2006, Digicel has over two million customers in Haiti. The Digicel Haiti Relief Fund has donated US\$5 million to NGOs in Haiti to support the relief efforts and over

US\$500,000 has been raised by Digicel customers across the Caribbean and Central America through a text and voice donation line. Digicel also gave each of its two million customers US\$5 in free credit – totalling US\$10 million.

In addition, over 60 video messages of support have been recorded by well known people such as the Fastest Man in the World, Usain Bolt; President Martinelli of Panama; West Indies legend, Sir Garfield Sobers; and many more. All videos are available to view on

www.facebook.com/helphaiti.



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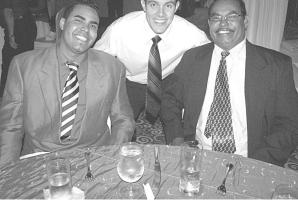
Rugia Siliee and Maikel Ras honored at the Radisson





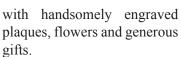








Colleague of the Year, and Maikel Ras as Manager the Year, of bestowing them



In his welcome address General Manager Rob Smith paused to reflect on the leadership qualities possessed by the winners, and on their ability to move and motivate their fellow-colleagues to great collective achievement. Doing their share brilliantly, in combinations with the desire to propel the operation forward without seeking

individual reward, is their road to success, he shared.

Yet recognition did pursue these two humble individuals, both celebrating long-term careers at the resort, as they were honored with the ultimate titles for 2009, Rugia Siliee as Colleague of the Year and Maikel Ras as Manager of the

Other nominees to Colleague of the Year, all hard-working worthy candidates and included Brigitte Hernandez, Jacqueline Leyba, Orlando Camara, Helen Dake, Wever, Jhowen Rainer Maduro, Fernando Giraldo, Alejandro Cuzcano, Marvinia Richardson, Omar Castaneda and Elizair Pourier. Other nominees to Manager of the Year, all driven and knowledgeable candidates included Vicky Perez and



Henri Barrau.

The resort's culinary team served an excellent surf and turf dinner, accompanied cocktails and wine. The department of human resources under Glenn Farro's



direction also conducted a fun raffle with prizes courtesy of neighboring resorts. The Sherries provided fanfare during the award ceremony and dance music after dinner. Pictured here, the elegant recognition banquet.



Radisson Resort Aruba Casino & Spa held an elegant recognition banquet in honor of its distinguished superachieving colleagues.

During the event, twelve winners of the coveted Colleague of the Month title and three winners of the Manager of the Trimester award were given public praise and recognition for their stellar performances in







At La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club

Appreciation Luncheon applauds creativity



















EAGLE BEACH – An appreciation luncheon was held at the Chit Chat Café in honor of resort departments who participated in organizing themed Cafeteria days in 2009.

Greta de Cuba, Associate Relations Manager recognized the creative and inventive departments involved with formal certificates as a token of the resort appreciation.

Recognized for unforgettable presentations, such as Life's a Beach and the Flintstones, members of the Accounting, the Front office/Bell services /PBX, Housekeeping, Engineering and Recreation departments, who jointly with the kitchen staff injected much fun into regular lunch hours.

For 2010, the tradition of staging themed cafeteria days will continue in the form of a contest. Departments are allowed just Awg 200 for their spending budget, making up the rest with their imagination.

Pictured here the representatives enjoying a round of applause for keeping up the good spirit of GUNG HO!



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Friends of the Handicapped are back on Aruba!

One more week for a chance to win big on Superbowl Sunday

By Rosalie Klein

ORANJESTAD- Over 20 years ago, a group of loyal island visitors led by Keith and Wilma Jones founded Friends of the Handicapped, which is dedicated to "giving back" to Aruba for all the happy memories the island has given them.

Keith and Wilma have passed on, but this small and dedicated group of community activists still spends their winter months on Aruba working for the betterment of the island community. Now lead by President Art Stark and his wife Alma, the board includes Philip Solomon, Sal and Maryann La Carruba, Pauline Daley, and David and Tana Ulmschneider. Arubans Anoushka Maduro of the Casa Del Mar and Marcelino Kock have been essential to their success, and Jean and Huguette Vateiquette are high-spirited volunteers who eagerly donate their vacation time for the cause. Some of the



FOTH members have bought houses on Aruba, but FOTH originated with members of the Aruba Beach Club, and now includes owners at the Casa Del Mar, Costa Linda and Playa Linda.

Each year FOTH raises funds through donations at

and by conducting their famous Superbowl Sunday lottery. Eventually, added their always-popular Sweetheart's Valentine's Day Dinner/Dance, and in recent years, a fundraising bingo night. FOTH volunteers can be found manning the boards in the Casa Del Mar lobby each day, offering the opportunity to win either the grand prize of \$750 or \$250 on a reverse score for a \$20 investment, of which 100% is donated to a worthy cause. Originally, Friends of the Handicapped lived up to their name by donating to local organizations dedicated to the care of the physically and mentally challenged, but with the help of Jan Venemanof Centro pa Desaroyo Social

di Aruba (CEDE)-the Center for Social Development of Aruba, they have expanded they contributions to various worthy organizations assisting children, elderly, the Red Cross and more. Over the years, their increased efforts and new events have allowed them to assist a greater range of those in need. After twenty years of fundraising activities, they surpassed the \$1,000,000 mark in donations. Along with Superbowl Lottery tickets, one can also obtain tickets to this year's Sweetheart Dinner Dance in the Radisson Resort Ballroom for only \$90, which includes a cocktail hour, gift for the ladies, a three-course dinner including wine and dancing to popular island band NBO. Because the final Grand Carnival Parade in Oranjestad

is on Valentine's Day, this fun evening has been scheduled for Saturday, February 20, allowing lovers to give each other their undivided attention and show that any day is a great day to show your love. As usual, Nash Malwani of Noble Jewelers has donated a fabulous diamond ring, which will be raffled at the dance; raffle tickets can be only purchased that night. During the evening, scores of great prizes generously donated by island vendors will be raffled; these tickets cost \$10 and can be purchased prior to the event and awarded to those present that night. FOTH also conducts a special \$100 raffle with a grand prize of \$2000 cash, which can also be purchased beforehand; you need not be present to win.



Continued on page 12



HUMAN HINTS***

Daily Trials

These are times of increasing bad news. The momentum is building with each passing moment, as one round of layoffs ushers in the next, and each bailout package dwarfs the last. We're all being affected, directly and indirectly, as the pebbles are cast and the lake is disturbed.

Humans grow in times of crisis, and we stagnate when we're not challenged. Times of personal crisis are always opportunities to dig deep, to

face your challenges and to overcome what seem to be insurmountable problems. When I'm in a jam, it's interesting to watch myself get out of it, with each decision, each action, and the focus of my mind.

Take action toward a specific goal each day. We will discuss how to set specific short term actions to reach a specific long-term goal on another day. The action you take every day will not only bring you closer to your goal, but will also occupy your mind with possibilities

for the future. It will take your mental focus off of the problem, and force you to focus on the solution. Your life is a reflection of your mind. Keep your mind focused on the solution, add daily action and time, and your life situation will change to reflect your thoughts about vourself.

You direct the path, and the details of how it happens will fall into place. The details, the unfolding of the path, are what make life a mystery, and we define the destination, as the daily path unfolds. Fascinating!

surprises, situations that arise, all decision steers our lives closer all know too well, the path we create to our future can be riddled with relentless bad news, disappointment and crisis. In the throes of daily life, think of your life as you want it to be, and feel yourself in that life, in your future. As long as you focus on how you want your future

actions will lead you there.

Life will almost never bring what you're expecting, but it will always go where your mind and actions lead it.

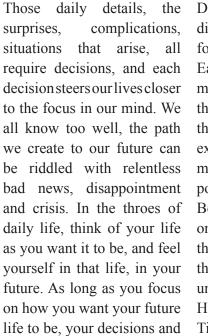
When confronted with bad news or a tough decision, the first and most important thing to do is to relax. You won't be able to make rational decisions or see things clearly unless you are relaxed. When we relax, we can detach from our emotions and listen to logic. When we're logical, we can analyze the possible outcomes of each decision, and choose our path wisely.

Don't ever take your threedimensional life for granted, for life as a Human on Earth at this Time is the most coveted situation in the Universe. Throughout the realms of energetic expression. Earth in this moment stands as the focal point of attention. Human Beings are the participants on the stage of the Earth, as the entire Universe watches unscripted moments unfold...The point is that Human Beings on Earth at this Time are in the most coveted position in the Universe. Do not ever take it for granted, even for a moment.

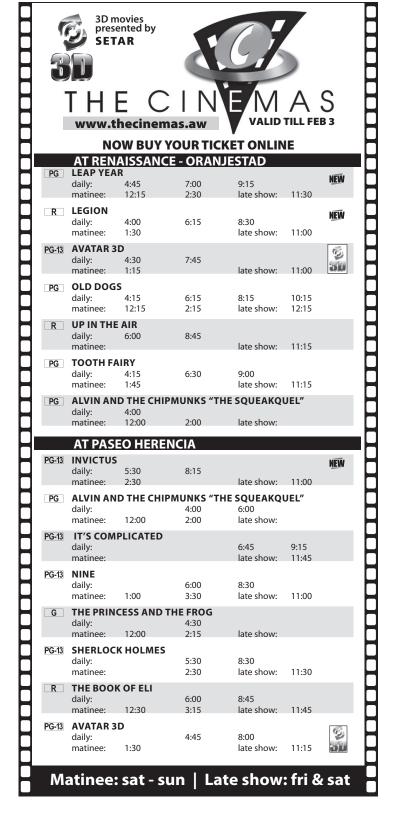
Unti Tomorrow...

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering **Physics** from Colorado School of Mines, and been in the audience of new age HumanHints channels is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques consciously create futrure you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.







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The best salad bar can l ound in Texas



PALM BEACH – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan. Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthistyle of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge. The Brazilian-style steakhouse alsooffersupagardenfullofhealthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses-including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more. The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

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Aruba—TODAY

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`Upstairs' is on its way up on the 2nd floor of The Village



PALM BEACH - Upstairs: the trendiest and coolest, but also the newest bar on the island. Located on the second floor of The Village, which is across from the Radisson Resort, it is literally and figuratively on its way up. Its walls have been painted apple green, the bar has nooks and crannies, the drinks are cheap, the view is fantastic and Upstairs is inviting everyone to come down and have a look. The opening takes place on Sunday evening, January 31st, with a surprise performance of a very popular singer.

Owner Bas Kruissebrink is



proud of his creation: "We offer a party atmosphere, great music and drinks that are very, very affordable, certainly compared to the hotel bars across the street." Bas is a DJ with loads of experience in the field of bartending and throwing great parties. Having worked at The Paddock, among other places, he definitely knows what he is talking about when he says: ``Aruba needs a place to chill, to meet friends your own age and to party until you drop in the hotel area." His open air terrace with a stage for a deejay is perfect for partying,





as everyone will shortly find out.



Upstairs is opening its doors on Sunday, so if you are ready for a party: come in for a drink and admire the hip, happy place at The Village that is called Upstairs!





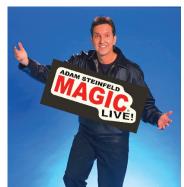








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door, in the intimate Magic Live! theater-of-illusions theater, every seat is close to the stage. his In new illusion he calls; "PRESENT", tall girl steps into a tiny box, elevated in-the-air, the box spins 360 degrees,

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Tourists and local fans will remember Steinfeld for past performances, in Aruba,



and on network television, Mr. Steinfeld recently authored Houdini Conspiracy", "Houdini Lives!", a collaborated work with new england mystery writer

> Al Blanchard, he believes will be turned into a feature film. The intimate Magic Live!® theater-ofillusions showroom is located just off the lobby of the Westin-Aruba in high-rise area, j.e. irausquin boulevard 77. Palm Beach, Aruba. Magic Live!® BOX

in main lobby. Purchase TICKETS AT THE DOOR. MAGIC, comedy and "seemingly impossible feats, get ready to marvel at the all new, MAGIC! theater-of-illusions starring ADAM STEINFELD, DECEMBER, 25, nightly 9PM at the WESTIN, aruba.MAGIC LIVE! theaterof-illusions show....at the WESTIN-Aruba, 9pm nightly, starring AdamSteinfeld.



IF YOU GO

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Apparently vacationing in Aruba

Bloody Coincidence: Murders of Bulgarian Mafia Bosses on Dutch Soil

Author: Ivan Dikov

"Bulgarian criminals don't feel very well on Dutch soil. They prefer countries such as those in Eastern Europe or Spain, for example. They don't like the northern European states much."

This is the opinion of Slavi Angelov, top investigative journalist from the 24 Chasa Daily, who is known for his investigations of the Bulgarian mafia, and is the author of several best-selling books about it.

Angelov points out that in general, the Bulgarian "organized crime" — which has become something of a catch phrase for Bulgaria in the European media — i.e. groups of that kind are not really strong outside the country — unlike mafias from the former Yugoslav republics, for example, who have much longer histories and whose members had the opportunity to travel to the West long before







Left - Konstantin Dimitrov, aka Samokovetsa - murdered in Amsterdam, November 2003; Middle - Poli Pantev - murdered on Aruba, March 2001; Right - Serbian Sreten Josic busted in Bulgaria in June 2002 and extradited to Holland at the request of the Dutch police.

1989 (when the Bulgarians got it).

There seems to be little presence of Bulgarian organized crime groups in the Netherlands – except for the

general international criminal contacts which appear to be somewhat of a given in that kind of activity.

Yet, whenthinking of organized crime in Bulgaria, one cannot skip the fact that two of the most famous Bulgarian mafia bosses were murdered abroad. The murders, of course, were plotted by their enemies back home. And what is interesting is that both of those murders took place on Dutch soil.

Poli Pantev – the Unfulfilled Monster

"Had he not made such a bad mistake so early, today Poli Pantev would have been a real monster because of his strong character and abilities," Angelov told Novinite.com in an interview (to be released). Pantev was born in 1961. He was a quiet and outstanding student in high school but after he served in the army, he went through much of the activities of typical for the Bulgarian crime bosses in the late 1980s and early 1990s. He was involved in robberies, currency exchange frauds, car theft rings, racketeering. One thing that really set him apart from the majority of Bulgarian

crime bosses is that unlike most of them he was never a wrestler or a sportsman. (As wrestlers and other sportsmen formed the backbone of the Bulgarian organized crime in the 1990s.)

At the beginning of the 1990s Poli Pantev was already one of the "senior officers" of the first really powerful organized crime group VIS, headed by former wrestler Vasil Iliev. When VIS – which was basically a security - read: "racketeering" company - was pressured by the authorities – it was transformed into "VIS-2" - an insurance - again read: "racketeering" (and much more than that, of course) - company. This formal switching from security to been more of an independent boss, setting up his own businesses, though often in partnership with other SIC bosses.

Never having been a "godfather", i.e. the very top boss of the Bulgarian mafia, Poli Pantev is known for being extremely shrewd, impertinent, and brutal. By the late 1990s, his power was growing, and he was gaining very strong positions in a number of spheres. A known "trivia" fact is that he was the first Bulgarian gangster to buy a Thai prostitute all the way from Thailand who is known to have quickly become very popular.

In 1997, he took over most of the drug market in Sofia. Shortly after that, he and the drugs "executive" of VIS, Metodi Metodiev, known as Meto Ilienski, hammed out a deal splitting the Sofia drug market 50:50, and even held weekly meetings in order to keep the peace between the dealers controlled by each of them.

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insurance is rumored to have been the brainchild of Poli Pantev.

Even before the murder of its boss Vasil Iliev in 1995, some of the top leaders of VIS broke up from it, and went on to found its major competitor – SIC. Poli Pantev switched to SIC in the mid-1990s becoming a top "executive" of the organization. However, he is generally believed to have

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In 1999, Poli Pantev sent his men to try to steal 600 kg of cocaine from a storehouse in Southwestern Bulgaria. The cocaine had recently arrived from Columbia via Greece, through the control of Dutch intermediary. Despite the fact that Pantev gets his hands on only part of the amount, there are rumors he was eventually killed because of that.

According to Angelov's publications. Pantev was murdered as a result of a rift in SIC in which he, together with the Margiun Brothers – Krasimir Marinov and Nikolay Marinov, and Dmitry Miney, aka the Russian (killed in 2004) were pitted against Mladen Mihalev, aka Madzho, and Milcho Bonev, aka Bai Mile (killed in 2004). The rift started over the murder of Emil Petrov, a construction businessman close to Pantev's wing.

Pantev proved to be a hard person to kill. The first attempt on his life was in July 2000 when an assassin with an RPG who shot at Pantev's armored jeep near his penthouse close to the Sofia zoo; however, the assassin was too close to the target and the shell failed to explode.

One of the strongest blasts in Sofia ever happened on November 15, 2000, in the Ambassador Hotel, where a Russian named Alexandr Romanov and an Armenian named Artashes Ovsepyan were blown up as they mishandled a bomb (10-12 kg of TNT) which was supposed to be used to kill Pantev.

The end of the brutal criminal boss, however, came on Dutch soil as in February 2001, his girlfriend Petya picked a destination for an exotic Caribbean holiday. Flying via Amsterdam. Pantev and Petya and two friends of their went to the island of Aruba in February 2001. It is there that Pantev – who was without any bodyguards - was shot in the head in a hotel lobby by a man with one accomplice. The two of them disappeared on a motorbike. and were never captured; they entered Aruba with Slovenian passports.

Even though some rumors claims that Pantev went to Aruba in order to negotiate with Latin American drug barons, most

evidence suggests that he was simply on a vacation, and that the Dutch-governed Caribbean island proved to be an appropriate place for his enemies to eliminate him.

Konstantin Dimitrov – the Ragsto-Riches Boss of Bulgarian Contraband

In December 2003, a Dutch TV channel reports that a Bulgarian criminal boss is the first ever victim of a gangland murder in the city of Amsterdam carried out in broad daylight.

The victim is the man who practically controls Bulgaria's customs – Konstantin Dimitrov, aka Kosyo Samokovetsa (named after his native town of Samokov) who several years ago had been just a modest bandit.

Samokovetsa was born in 1970. In the early 1990s, he was one of the boys hanging out as guards of VIS boss, Vasil Iliev. Rumor has it that one time above-mentioned Poli Pantev in a fit of fury ran into Vasil Iliev's office chasing Dimitrov because the latter had beaten one of his men. As Iliev protected the young Dimitrov, the whole incident ended with a hearty laugh.

Dimitrov's path crosses many times with that of Pantev, and even though the two formally belong to different groups – VIS and SIC – in the late 1990s Dimitrov becomes a neighbor of Pantev with a penthouse of his own near the Sofia Zoo.

Samokovetsa rises to prominence in Bulgaria's underworld in 1999 when through a scheme with customs officials he manages to take control of the Kapitan Andreevo crossing point on the border with Turkey. He is detected to have had connections with senior officers from the antimafia police units – including the top Operational Information Directorate, and even with people from the ruling party at that time – the right-wing Union of Democratic Forces.

Gradually, Dimitrov's people take over all major Bulgarian customs. They collect "customs duties" for him, which actually most firms don't mind paying because they are smaller than the official state-imposed duties. In 2000-2001, Dimitrov's smuggling revenue was estimated to be about BGN 10 M per month. The only person he is accountable to is Georgi Iliev (aka Zhoro Iliev),

who inherits his brother's empire after Vasil Iliev was killed in 1995. Zhoro Iliev was himself murdered in 2005.

Even though some stories claim Dimitrov's murder was organized by Iliev who started to be concerned about the growing power of the former, in his book investigative journalist Slavi Angelov says — citing sources from the Bulgarian police - that Dimitrov was killed as a result of a fight with some of the bosses of SIC.

incident happened in The the Escape disco club in the Studentski Grad Ouarter in Sofia in November 2003 when Krasimir Marinov, aka the Big Marguin and Dmitry Minev from SIC insulted a woman that Dimitrov was with at a nearby table. Dimitrov responded by giving them the finger, which within seconds led to a mass fight and shooting involving some 40-50 guards. Samokovetsa is saved by his bodyguards, and flies off to Holland shortly after that.

Dimitrov went to the Netherlands rather often. He intended to set up a company there, and even took a course required for that. The Dutch police had been following him at the signals of the Bulgarian police.

On December 6, 2003, Dimitrov was killed on the Dam Square in Amsterdam while he was in his car right in front of the Amsterdam Diamond Center, the largest diamond store in the city. He was without bodyguards, and accompanied only by a Bulgarian model, Tsetsi Krasimirova, who suffered a light wound by a ricocheting bullet. The Dutch police captured quickly the physical murderer, a man named Erwin Wrecker, who was sentenced to 15 years in jail. He was detected to have been in contacts with people in Bulgaria connected with SIC. The control over Dimitrov's business in Bulgaria is split in pieces among other bosses including the Marguin Brothers and Zlatomir Ivanov (aka Zlatko Baretata).

Sreten Josic: Serbian-Dutch Crime Boss Busted in Bulgaria During a special police operation on June 20, 2002, a man was arrested on the Vazrazhdane Square in Sofia after making a phone call to Holland. He proved to be Serbian mafia boss Sreten Josic. Josic (born 1962), also known as Joca Amsterdam, reached the top levels of the Serbian mafia in the Netherlands at the beginning of the 1990s.

Josic was busted in Sofia over an arrest warrant of the Dutch police who had been wanting him for nine years. It turned out that he had been living in Bulgaria under a fake identity for four years, leaving the country numerous times by using 30 different passports.

Shortly after that, Sreten Josic was extradited to the Netherlands for where he served a minor term and was then sent to Serbia four years later. In 2006, a Belgrade court released him on a EUR 300 000 bail.

Various rumors claim that Josic organized the murder of Poli Pantev in Aruba (some claim he was hired by SIC for that); he is also said to be connected with the murders of Vasil Iliev in 1995, and of Milcho Bonev, aka Bai Mile - in 2004. One story has it that Bonev was the SIC representative working with Josic and took a large sum of money to help him escape from the arrest in Sofia before his transfer to the Netherlands. Bonev is said to have failed but kept the money, which led Josic to arrange his assassination from the Dutch prison.

In 2009, Josic was arrested in Serbia over alleged involvement

in the murder of Croatian journalist Ivo Pukanic. This is when he made his claims that in 1998-2002 he was in Bulgaria under the protection of Boyko Borisov (current Bulgarian Prime Minister and Chief Secretary of the Interior Ministry in 2001-2005) and of football club owner Nikolay Gigov.

Borisov has responded by saying Josic knew his name and wanted to implicate him in a scandal, and that he was the one who actually was responsible for his arrest. Unconfirmed reports say Josic issued a death sentence for Borisov because of that.

The fact of the matter is that two of the most shocking gangland murders of Bulgarian mafia bosses happened on Dutch soil was a coincidence; the two murders happened in places where the killed Bulgarian gangsters felt more secure and were without bodyguards.

Both murders happened in the period when Bulgaria saw a peak of gangland killings – late 1990s – early 2000s. The Sreten Josic case also made headlines in that period. It seems that Bulgarian organized crime never really set foot in the Netherlands in any large-scale way.

Coincidence or not, however, the two Bulgarian mafia murders on Dutch soil – to the extent that they were noticed by the Dutch public (one of them was certainly noticed by dozens of witnesses on the Dam Square) - hardly contributed positively to the image of Bulgaria in the Netherlands.

*This article is based on information provided in "9 Milimeters - The True Story of the Bulgarian Mafia", a book by Slavi Angelov, and on publications in Bulgarian and European media.





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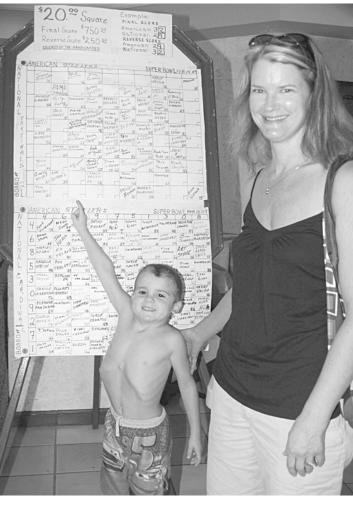
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The efforts of Friends of the Handicapped are a fine example of residents businesses working

with island visitors to assist the less fortunate. Over the years they have lost beloved members and others have joined, most recently, Pat and Marcia Finck of Massachusetts are donating their time.

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Saturday, January 30, 2010 ARUBA HOY

Arubu TODAY

Bolivia declara emergencia nacional por lluvias

LA PAZ (AP) - El gobierno declaró emergencia nacional en Bolivia por las lluvias e inundaciones que causaron hasta ahora 9 muertos y 24.175 familias damnificadas, sobre todo en el oriente del país.

El presidente Evo Morales aprobó el decreto tras visitar el viernes un barrio al sur de esta ciudad donde el jueves más de 70 viviendas se derrumbaron al colapsar cerro donde estaban emplazadas sin causar daños personales.

El Servicio de Meteorología atribuyó las lluvias, que en la región andina y el oriente sobrepasaron los promedios para la época, a "variaciones climáticas ocasionadas por el Fenómeno de El Niño".

Los departamentos de Santa Cruz y Beni, en el oriente, son los más castigados por lluvias donde miles de



El presidente de Bolivia, Evo Morales, camina junto al jefe de las fuerzas armadas, general Carlos Ramiro de la Fuente, durante una visita a un barrio al sur de La Paz el viernes 29 de enero de 2010. Más de 70 viviendas se derrumbaron en el barrio al colapsar el cenrro donde estaban emplazadas, sin causar daños personales. (AP Photo/Juan Karita)

aún las pérdidas.

El director de Defensa Civil, general Rafael Uría, dijo a la AP que 22.685 familias están afectadas por inundaciones, 501 por granizadas que diezmaron cosechas en la región de los valles 196 por deslaves y 816 familias por

Uría dijo que nueve personas fallecieron y que aún se investiga la muerte de otras dos personas. Centenares de familias fueron evacuadas campamentos emergencia.

El decreto no indica el monto de dinero que el gobierno destinará a la emergencia pero instruye al Ministerio de Economía y a los gobiernos locales a privilegiar fondos para atender a los damnificados.

Meteorología indicó que este año el fenómeno climático El Niño golpea de forma moderada y que las lluvias incrementarán en las siguientes semanas en ocho de los nueve departamentos

EEUU reanudará asistencia económica a Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA (Reuters) - Estados Unidos tras el golpe de Estado para que se pueda reanudará la ayuda económica a Honduras, suspendida tras un golpe de Estado hace siete meses que dejó sin asistencia internacional a la pobre nación, dijo el viernes el embajador en Tegucigalpa.

El hacendado conservador Porfirio Lobo asumió el miércoles como nuevo presidente de Honduras, que sufre por el corte de la ayuda internacional en protesta por el golpe contra Manuel Zelaya en junio, por la parálisis en la actividad que generó ese conflicto político y por el coletazo de la crisis mundial.

"No es justo el aislamiento de Honduras. Nosotros estamos empezando ya a estudiar en Washington el procedimiento para reanudar nuestra asistencia económica", dijo en rueda de prensa junto a Lobo el embajador estadounidense Hugo Llorens.

Washington había suspendido la mayor parte de su ayuda anual de 100 millones de dólares a Honduras, uno de los países más pobres de América, y sólo mantuvo fondos para ayuda humanitaria como medida de presión para que el Gobierno de facto restituvera a Zelava.

El nuevo ministro de Finanzas, William Chong Wong, dijo el jueves que Honduras requiere del reconocimiento de las naciones que dieron la espalda al Gobierno de facto

reanudar la vital ayuda económica de los organismos financieros internacionales.

Pero la gran mayoría de los países del mundo no reconoce al Gobierno de Lobo porque las elecciones en las que ganó fueron organizadas por el Gobierno de facto que sucedió a Zelaya. El nuevo Gobierno de Honduras está considerando la adopción de un plan de emergencia para enfrentar el sombrío panorama de la economía, dijo un portavoz oficial a Reuters.

La economía de Honduras se contrajo un 2 por ciento en el 2009, una caída mayor incluso que cuando el huracán Mitch ocasionó en 1999 una devastación estimada en 5.000 millones de dólares.

Lobo dijo en la rueda de prensa que la próxima semana quedará conformada una comisión de la verdad que investigará los hechos previos y posteriores al golpe de Estado del 28 de junio. Estados Unidos ha presionado al Gobierno de Honduras para que se cumplan todos los puntos de un acuerdo firmado en octubre entre negociadores de Zelaya y el Gobierno de facto dirigido a poner fin a la crisis política y que incluía la creación de la comisión de la verdad. Ese acuerdo, denominado Tegucigalpa-San José y alentado por Estados Unidos, fue desconocido después por Zelaya.

hectáreas de cultivos y pastizales quedaron bajo las aguas de ríos desbordados. No fueron cuantificadas

Temblor de magnitud 4,6 sacude zona cafetera de Colombia

BOGOTA (Reuters) - Un sismo de magnitud 4,6 sacudió el viernes la zona cafetera del centro de Colombia pero no causó víctimas ni daños materiales, informó el Instituto Geofisico Nacional.

El temblor se registró hacia las 12.52 hora local (1752 GMT) y el epicentro fue localizado cerca al municipio de Argelia, en el departamento del Valle, ubicado en la Cordillera Occidental de los Andes, 230 kilómetros al oeste de Bogotá.

El Instituto Geofísico reveló que el sismo tuvo una profundidad de 116 kilómetros, lo que minimizó sus

Un temblor de esa magnitud puede ocasionar daños graves en zonas densamente pobladas, de acuerdo con los expertos.

El sismo se sintió en las ciudades de Manizales, Pereira, Armenia y Cali, en donde causó pánico entre habitantes. La zona cafetera del centro de este país sudamericano fue sacudida en enero de 1999 por un terremoto de magnitud 6,2 que dejó 1.230 muertos, cerca de 5.000 heridos y 250.000 damnificados, en la peor tragedia natural del país en más de una década.

Saturday, January 30, 2010 ADVERTISEMENT





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Perú: continúa rescate de turistas de Machu Picchu

MACHU PICCHU PUEBLO (AP) - Por quinto día helicópteros entraban salían de este pueblo cercano de la famosa ciudadela inca de Machu Picchu, evacuando a turistas extranjeros aislados por la crecida del río Vilcanota debido a intensas lluvias que dejaron poco más de 60.000 afectados en la región andina de Cusco.

El ministro de Comercio Exterior y Turismo Martín Pérez dijo el viernes a la AP que las pérdidas en el sector turismo por el cierre de Machu Picchu "todavía no han sido calculadas".

"El impacto se ha producido sobre todo en la cancelación



Turistas extranjeros caminan por la línea férrea en el centro arqueológico de Machu Picchu en el Cusco, Perú, el viernes 29 de enero de 2010. (AP Photo/Martin Mejia)

de las reservas a futuro Picchu aunque en realidad baja", señaló. Entre enero y

en

temporada

setiembre de 2009 arribaron

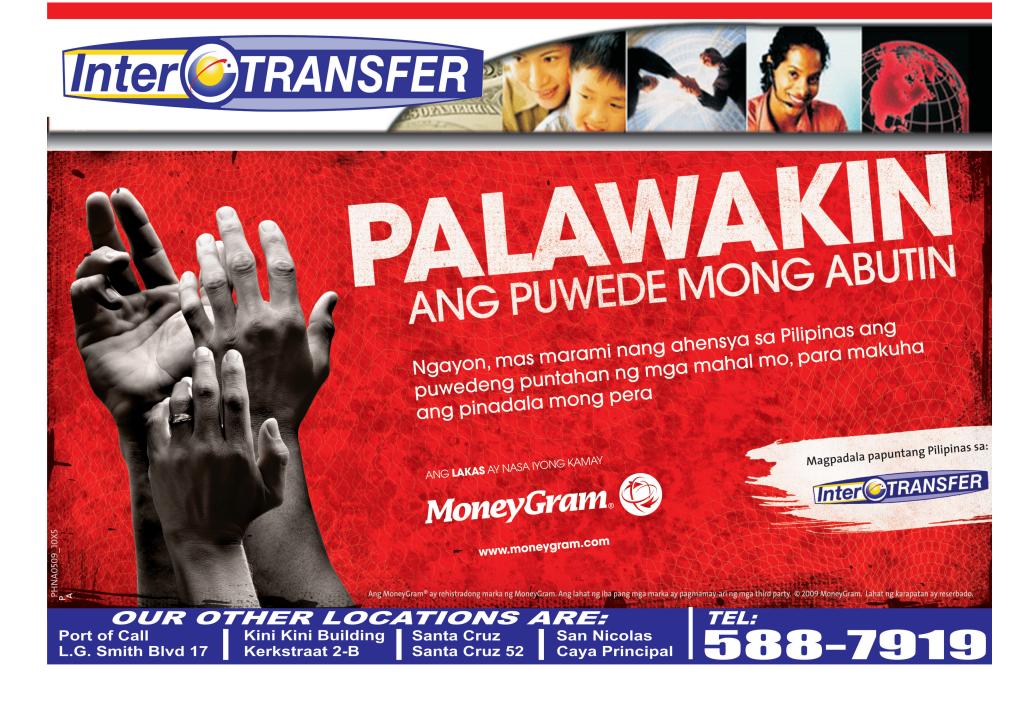
que se tenían para Machu estamos

611.591 turistas a la zona arqueológica.

El coronel de la policía, Santiago Vizcarra, encargado de coordinar los vuelos por helicóptero desde esta localidad, dijo que falta evacuar 140 turistas.

Añadió que durante 9 horas y en 64 vuelos lograron trasladar a 1.120 turistas. "Esperamos concluir hoy, ojalá que el buen tiempo climático nos ayude, aunque el cielo está cerrándose", dijo

Vizcarra indicó que "en la operación de evacuación del viernes participaban 11 helicópteros: 5 del gobierno, 4 de Estados Unidos y 2 de empresas privadas"





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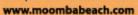
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